ネコ光一
Illustration
Nardack
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ゴルビ
異世界式教育エージェント
エアーライダー
OVERLAP

WORLD TEACHER 3

異世界式教育エージェント

ネコ光一 Illustration：Nardack

World Teacher

– Other World Style Education & Agent –

– Volume 3 –

Servant

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Chapter 15

Easy training

(Depending on the point of view)

I honestly returned Emilia's confession.

Specifically, I told her: "I'm still a child and I'm your teacher so I can't respond to your feelings…", it's quite a bad answer.

She got depressed, or rather, I thought she would.

"I'm just yearning for you of my own accord, so don't mind it. That being the case, please pat me again from time to time." (Emilia)

Answering so with a big smile, she went back inside the household. Perhaps she favors me as a benefactor that she can depend on, at least, I think that's a strong part of her yearning. I think it's the kind of feeling where one wants to become like a person who achieved something great. In short, her romantic feelings aren't complete yet; it's safe.

As I left her alone while sighing out a breath of relief, Noel came out looking stressed, as if she hadn't done enough already. It was annoying so I iron claw'd her.

"Nya~aaaa~! Go-good job, Emi-chan~!" (Noel)

Wow, you're praising Emilia while putting up with the pain. Your endurance is progressing fast, isn't it? Then, as expected, the one who stirred up Emilia was you huh, if so, I'll take care of you thoroughly today.

I left the fallen, dead tired Noel and it became time for breakfast. Today's breakfast is French toasts made by Dee. Elena gracefully eats them, Dee nods satisfiedly, and eating

relishly are Emilia, Reus and….. Noel. Even though you were limping just a short while ago, you recover real quick, huh?

Seeing the two siblings eating that way, Dee talked joyfully.

“What do you two think?” (Dee)

“It’s delicious. It’s my first time eating something this tasty.” (Emilia)

“It’s really delicious, big bro Dee. It’s amazing that you can make something like this.” (Reus)

“This is a dish I was taught by Sirius-sama” (Dee)

““What?”“ (Emilia & Reus)

At this point, the faces of the two looking at me split into two kinds. On one hand, a face with eyes sparkling from amazement, on the the other hand, a clearly unpleased face. No need to explain which is whose.

“There is no need to be surprised. Most of the dishes that Dee makes were taught to him by Sirius-sama.” (Elena)

“That’s right. He introduced a whole new world of flavor.” (Noel)

“Wow~ It’s amazing, Sirius-sama” (Emilia)

“Hm-hmph. This isn’t tasty at all!” (Reus)

This, even though he said that it’s delicious just some time ago, Reus seems to want to repulse me thoroughly. No matter how much of a child he is, it’s still rude to the one who made the food, right? As I thought of scolding him briefly, Noel made a move ahead of me.

“Hey! Saying something like that is no good, Reus-kun.” (Noel)

“Uuuh……” (Reus)

“This is undoubtedly delicious. Here, it’s more tasty if you put honey on it, so please eat.” (Noel)

“It’s a delicious dish…” (Reus)

“Right? You wouldn’t be able to eat it if not for Sirius-sama and Dee, so apologize properly, alright?” (Noel)

“…I’m sorry…” (Reus)

“Well done. As a reward, I’ll tearfully split my share with you” (Noel)

…… Who the hell is that? Is it Elena disguised with Noel’s skin?

As I got surprised by her skills that made the sulky child apologize, Elena quietly whispered to my ear.

“Though she’s usually like “that”, she is very good with children’s treatment. She’s especially caring given that those children went through circumstances similar to hers.” (Elena)

She is very skillful at child care? Come to think of it, up to now, there wasn’t anyone younger than Noel except for me. It’s something like, since there was only me, and I don’t act like I’m younger, her forte only appeared after the pair came here.

I’ll raise Noel’s evaluation just a little.

“Hmmm, big sis Noel. You don’t have to give it if it’s going to make you cry that much” (Reus)

“No! I’m the big sister, so I can handle this much!” (Noel)

“… Do you want me to cook some more?” (Dee)

““I do~!”“ (Noel & Reus)

…Maybe I shouldn't after all.

Having finished eating breakfast, the siblings and I came to the garden.

The training finally starts from today. Everyone change clothes to ones easy to move in, and for starters, we get to warm-up exercises.

"Listen, It's different from fighting, but before practice, you have to do some physical exercises." (Sirius)

"Why is that?" (Emilia)

"Because if you suddenly move violently, you might get injured. To understand your body, you have to exercise it or your reaction speed will grow dull. Regardless of the fighting, It'd be shameful if you get injured in training, right?" (Sirius)

"Understood. Hey, Reus, do as Sirius-sama said, alright?" (Emilia)

"Alright……" (Reus)

They mimic my movements and stretch repeatedly, and we stop when our bodies start to warm up.

"Well, to begin with, I want to hear about you two's abilities. Do you have any battle experience?" (Sirius)

"I have a little bit. Though it's from hunting which perplexed my father." (Emilia)

"I don't. However, I'm confident in my movements!" (Reus)

"I see. Then, I want to assess your endurance, let's have you run in the garden for now." (Sirius)

I shift my attention to the garden I ran through this morning. If one runs through this garden's outer course on a wide range, he'll cover a distance of about one lap around an elementary school's playground.

“That’s easy” (Reus)

“So how long do we have to do it for?” (Emilia)

“Until you pass out.” (Sirius)

““Huh?”“ (Reus & Emilia)

“What’s with the shocked faces? Run until you pass out. You can’t cross your limits if you don’t know your limits. Fear not for there is someone who’ll take care of you even if you collapse.” (Sirius)

The someone who’ll look after them is Noel, I made here hold on standby at the end of the garden, preparing drinks and towels.

First of all is stamina. Stamina is absolutely essential in order to take action and there is no reason not to practice it. I come back to my senses and hit my hands together in front of the two whose focus stays unshaken.

“On the way, you also have to dash all out several times. And don’t slack off because I’ll be following you.” (Sirius)

“Cut the crap! How can you suddenly ask us to do it until we pass out?” (Reus)

“Reus, we’re going.” (Emilia)

“Sister?” (Reus)

The younger brother can’t hide his astonishment of his elder sister’s resolution. He faces Emilia who has a serious expression.

“I decided to follow Sirius-sama. I’ll run even if you don’t go, Reus.” (Emilia)

“Ugh…… alright, I’ll go too. However, I still don’t approve of “that guy”!” (Reus)

“It’s “Sirius-sama”, right? Name him properly!” (Emilia)

“Damn it, I meant “Sirius-sama”!” (Reus)

Turning his anger into power, Reus starts running all out in the garden, and Emilia runs after him while smiling wryly at that mischievousness. Their pace is reckless, but I like it so I let them do so. After all, they’ll pass out and be taken care of all the same.

“Hey hey, you have to catch up. Put more power in your feet.” (Sirius)

“Da-dammiiiit!” (Reus)

“Reus, run, it’s no use to raise your voice.” (Emilia)

“Regulate the rhythm of your breathing with your feet. Even if it’s difficult now, it’ll make it easier for the future if you remember it” (Sirius)

“Yes!” (Emilia)

“I, I can do it-!” (Reus)

“Do an all out dash here.” (Sirius)

“Hah…… Yes!” (Emilia)

“Hah…… hah…… You-you got to be joking” (Reus)

“Your pace is falling. Are you reaching your limits?” (Sirius)

“Hah…… hah…… I can…… still go!” (Reus)

“hah…… hah……” (Emilia)

“How many is it now, I wonder?” (Sirius)

“ha…… ha…… hagh-“ (Reus)

“…… Uh……” (Emilia)

And so, two corpses appeared in the garden.

The two had collapsed with a feeble breath, and Noel, who was next to the pair, nursed them while fanning them.

“Uh-huh, I understand, I went through the same. You’re not the ones with a problem, Sirius-sama is just too abnormal.” (Noel)

And while Noel talked heartily about her three days of experience in training, I kept running. The two are probably unable to answer, so I planned to keep going until their breaths calms down and they become capable of talking.

After ten minutes, Noel waved her hand and called out to me.

“Sirius-samaaa~, Emi-chan & co are about to recover.” (Noel)

“Got it. I’ll go do one more lap.” (Sirius)

Having done a lap with all my power at the end, I stood in front of Emilia who heavily raised her upper-body and Reus who was fallen and not moving.

“How about it you guys? Did you understand your limits? Ah, you don’t have to force yourselves to talk.” (Sirius)

Emilia breathes heavily with a deep-red face, she doesn’t worry about her hair sticking with sweat and looks absentmindedly towards here. On the other hand, Reus is collapsed with a pale face and doesn’t move an inch. One would wonder if he’s dead, but it’s safe because his belly is properly moving up and down.

“Take a proper rest while it’s still time. You’ll run again until lunch once you recover.” (Sirius)

The pair trembled with shivers to the words. Even if I want to object, I’m afraid that that’s their limit.

“Hmmm, Sirius-sama. Isn’t this pushing it a little too far? I think it is……” (Noel)

“Really? They’re having a steady rest so it’s alright, people are unexpectedly strong as long as they have the will.” (Sirius)

“It doesn’t sound alright at all!” (Noel)

So to say, in my previous life, I couldn’t relax my guard even during breaks. It’s because my teacher used to aim at me with rubber-coated metal bullets when I relaxed. Therefore, while I do rest my body, it only pushes me to remember the forced physical labor and to sharpen up at least a minimum.

Never mind that, at any rate, for the time being, I’ll just keep putting load on their bodies and squeeze them to the limit. I’ve now understood the limits of the two thanks to the endurance run, after this, they just have to redo the process repeatedly and earnestly. The problem is adjusting the difficulty so that the pair’s will can endure it and that their bodies don’t break. They won’t last long if I just act strict, after all, the foundation of education is the carrot and stick.

Carrot, huh? What would be good for the two? Eating a delicious meal, of course.

“What shall I make for lunch? What do you want to eat?” (Sirius)

“I’ll go with the cutlet sandwich we ate the other day!” (Noel)

“…Me too!” (Emilia)

“M-me too…” (Reus)

You guys… especially the pair who died right there. You couldn’t even reply just now yet you respond to the food? To think that just a meal is enough. Are the beastkins that obsessed with eating?

After that, the break ends and I make the pair run again. This time, the goal is to keep running until noon rather than until falling. I point out their pacing, but although they do take a walking pace, their feet don’t stop. It’s a training that’s instilled in the body and improves the physical strength while moving. One would think that such a training is

bound to become unpleasant, but the two were honestly making light of it given that they kept going patiently. Especially Reus, I thought that he'd rise up some trouble since he opposes me, but having seen his sister continuing silently, he stayed obedient. And, one thing leading to another, the two lost their balance.

And thus, the pair got through, and I rewarded the two who fell satisfiedly.

"Thanks for the meal!" (Emilia & Reus)

One would normally lose his appetite from running that much, yet the two took three second servings of cutlet sandwich. Each one is considerably voluminous with thick oil, but they wolf them down regardless. What matters is that they seem to have some quite healthy steel stomachs. I think they'd be quite capable of eating steadily in any situation.

Leaving the cleaning after the lunch to the others, I hold out some drinks before the two are immersed in their after-meal swelling.

"Hmmm… what's with the amazingly colorful things floating though?" (Emilia)

There is spots of green, white and reddish objects floating on the mysterious beverage. It's understandable for her to question it.

"That's nutritional supplement. Though it tastes awful, with this meal you'll obtain plenty of the nutrients that you're lacking." (Sirius)

"Nu-try-ents? What are you saying?" (Emilia)

"I don't know why it's good but it's good so drink it." (Sirius)

By the way, I squeezed in various vegetables and fruits, cutting and mixing the parts that were nutritious enough. I also mixed in some honey, which made its taste barely drinkable… maybe. The faces of the who drank up were quite difficult. But it's safe, I'm drinking it too so it's all good.

"Do you want to eat pudding to remove the bad taste?" (Sirius)

“““I do!””“ (Reus & Emilia & Noel)

Although one cat eared beastkin intermixed, well, I won’t mind it. Having eaten the dessert, I give the following directions to the two who became satisfied looking.

“Next up is a nap.” (Sirius)

““A nap?”“ (Emilia & Reus)

The siblings look at each other’s faces. I guess it’s natural to be doubtful when someone who made you run to death just some time before suddenly says such a tepid thing.

“I say “a nap” but it’s just a catnap. Afterwards, you’ll be taught by Elena.”

Though it’s also important to forge physical strength, I can’t afford to neglect culture and knowledge. No matter how strong one is, it’s useless if he can’t calculate and converse. Before Elena was saying that she wanted to do a servant education, that made me think about combining that with the education course. Allowing the catnap is for recovery as well as being a prevention from dozing off

“You should lie down on the sofa over there for an hour.” (Sirius)

It is said that sleeping immediately after a meal will make one grow fat, but that’s just the right thing for the skinny pair. One must first put on some fat to then turn it into muscles.

“Lie down, you say? That’s pretty sudden.” (Reus)

“Just listen up and lie down. He’s saying that it’s alright to take a rest so you should do so.” (Emilia)

“That’s right, take a rest while you can. I’ll sit in the middle of the sofa, so I want you two to sleep in a way so that your heads come beside me.” (Sirius)

Having tilted their heads at my instruction, the two do as I said. Sitting in the middle, there are the heads of the siblings lying on both of my sides, but they don’t try to sleep and only look up here .

“What is it, Reus? Can’t sleep?” (Sirius)

“As if I could sleep in these conditions” (Reus)

“I see, then, I’ll do a charm for you that will make you sleep. Close your eyes. “ (Sirius)

I put my hand on Reus’ chest and I tap on it with my finger in a regular rhythm. The closer it is to the rhythm of his heartbeats, the better.

“W-what? What are you tapping my chest for?” (Reus)

“It’s alright so just concentrate on my finger.” (Sirius)

I continued with my finger’s rhythm like that, and five minutes passed..

“Zzzz……” (Reus)

So easy. On top of the total exhaustion from the harsh running, there is also the after-meal feeling of a full stomach so it’s only natural.

They quietly fell asleep next to me, or so I thought, but the elder sister was happily looking up my way. And here I thought she’d sleep without having to be told to since she’s a good and obedient child.

“Even if it displeases you, hurry up and sleep. You won’t lose your fatigue otherwise.” (Sirius)

“Yes. Say…… could you pat me?” (Emilia)

“…… It can’t be helped.” (Sirius)

“Hehehe……” (Emilia)

When I pat her head in accordance with her request, she closes her eyes and laughs in a satisfied mood. Surprisingly, after a few seconds, she settles down and starts letting out a sleeper’s breathing. My hand sure is amazing-… yeah, as if.

“Ooh… it’s like a magic hand. This skill, I want to learn it too.” (Noel)

“Their sleeping conditions were very satisfactory, so it was just a matter of having to make them relax a little. Well, the real thing is from here on.” (Sirius)

I put my hands on the two’s head and I pour some mana inside in a way so that it doesn’t disturb their sleep. In order to make it enter at ease, the trick is to make it diffuse in the whole body by osmosis *(TLN: It means harmonizing it, if you will)*, by giving a weak wound curing regeneration activity to the whole body, the recuperative power of sleep greatly raises.

Having continued for about 30 minutes, I part my hand, and separating from the sofa, I promptly sit at the table where some Japanese green tea is prepared. While drinking, my eyes landed on Elena who was waiting with a smile.

“Thanks for your hard work. After the two get up, it’s my turn.” (Elena)

“Please do what you have to. And since I was strict until just a little while ago, go easy on them, alright?” (Sirius)

“Please leave it to me. I will make them into splendid servants who won’t be embarrassed anywhere they go.” (Elena)

“Hold on, they didn’t say that they’d become servants. You don’t have to bother going that far.” (Sirius)

“The servant education is a splendid education. Besides, it seems like it’s just a matter of time, doesn’t it?” (Elena)

Elena turned her gaze toward the sleeping pair, and nodded with an “mhm” together with Noel who was also looking.

“Especially so for Emi-chan, it’ll certainly happen sooner or later. My former self being the same, I can’t see her taking any other path than that one.” (Noel)

“Though I understand where you’re coming from, I think the girl is just idolizing me and that her love hasn’t sprouted yet. After this, if she keeps on training, I think that she won’t have the time to fall in love.” (Sirius)

When I’ll add combat training, magic training and field training to the physical fitness….. It’ll be jostling. The girl’s simple love will easily cool down then, won’t it?

“That’s too naive, a girl’s love is infinite! No matter the conditions, love will prevail.” (Noel)

“You read too many fictions. Anyway, Emilia is steady, but the problem resides with Reus.” (Sirius)

“That’s right. I have inquired about his troubles, and that child is unstable.” (Elena)

“Eeh? Unstable, you say? Reus-kun seems pretty energetic though?” (Noel)

Elena and I share the same thought it seems, she explains to Noel while including her own opinion.

“Is it really alright? The siblings try to protect each other from being one another’s only relative. Though that’s certainly wonderful, but that’s only if you don’t change your point of view.” (Elena)

“Isn’t it only natural? It’s proof that they’re important for each other, right?” (Noel)

“But, what if something regrettable happens to one of them? For instance, let’s take Reus, his whole point of living is undoubtedly his elder sister. If Emilia say, dies, Reus will die as well. While those two do support each other, It’s a very unstable alliance which will collapse completely if one side slips off.” (Elena)

“Since she vented up her pent-up anger on me, Emilia will try to find a new aim, but Reus only has his sister as of now.” (Sirius)

Reus’ repulsion towards me is clearly from jealousy. For his dear and beloved elder sister to look at me, it must be unbearably mortifying.

“That child is still too young. He acts tough but his wounds from losing his parents are deep and he’s depending on his older sister without knowing it. We have to find him some other goal.” (Elena)

“That is so, well, fortunately, it’s safe for now. He’s training diligently for the sake of protecting his sister, so he can do nothing but go with the status quo.” (Sirius)

There are still two years left before we get driven out of here. Though I’ll go to school, I don’t know how those two will grow, so, until then, I want to somehow do something.

As Elena and I worriedly looked at each other’s face, Noel suppressed her voice and laughed.

“You two are a little like a mother and a father.” (Noel)

“Hey hey, it’s impossible in terms of age. Make me a big brother at least.” (Sirius)

“In others words, am I Sirius-sama’s mother? That’s wonderful. “ (Elena)

Leaving the suddenly overcome with emotion Elena alone, we spent our time in a relaxed mood until the time of the two’s awakening.

The two who laid down for exactly an hour were woken up.

Though they seemed a little drowsy, their physical strength was recovered which strongly puzzled them. I make them run lightly to keep them awake, and the servant education of Elena begins at last.

“Then, shall we study about servants? It’s difficult so follow attentively.” (Elena)

“Understood.” (Emilia)

“Mhm.” (Reus)

They sat face-to-face on the desk in the living room, and I was looking at the scene sitting on a sofa. By the way, Noel and Dee aren't by the desk being attending to errands and cleaning.

Since Elena is an expert maid, she fits very well the role of teaching people. Reus is obedient to her as well so there is no particular problem in proceeding.

"Reus, today I'm your teacher. Say "yes" not "mhm"." (Elena)

"Uh… Y-yes!" (Reus)

The speech teaching begins immediately. While the change of manner of the usually gentle and tender Elena is shocking, it seems to accordingly enhance obedience.

"Being the master's underling, the servant is, naturally, a person who supports him from the shadows. A devoted heart is important for that. If you happen to meet a master that you want to serve, I believe you'll surely understand. " (Elena)

"… Yes!" (Emilia)

"Eeeeh?" (Reus)

The two glance this way with each a different reaction. Puting Emilia aside, Reus's face seems blatantly unpleased. Elena immediately turned sharp eyes towards Reus for his apparent mistake.

"Reus, instead of talking that like that, answer with "I understand"." (Elena)

"But, I didn't tell you that I'd become a servant-…… I mean, I did not say that I would do that. What does this-…… what is the meaning of this?" (Reus) *(TLN: Had to improvise here, anyway, he corrected himself by talking more politely, he does that a lot)*

"That's right, you certainly don't need to become a servant as you say and that lowers the meaning of learning about it. However, mastership is not a story limited to Sirius-sama, learning this won't hurt. For instance, the speech." (Elena)

Elena firmly reciprocates the actually plausible speech of Reus, but he seems not to understand well and tilts his neck in wonder.

“Speech is important. The high ranked people will respect an other person if she gives a good impression by talking politely, and above all, it makes you appear smart and elegant. Reus, do you remember what kind of impression the speaking of the adults who made a fool of you gave off?” (Elena)

“…… I didn’t understand it well, but It was something very vulgar…” (Reus)

“That’s what happens when one doesn’t know polite speech, so cultivate yourself. Or do you want to become like that?” (Elena)

Not wanting to turn out that way, Reus frantically shakes his head with an unpleased face.

“Therefore, let’s learn. Follow my and your elder sister’s example and proceed in remembering slowly.” (Elena)

“Yes! I understand.” (Reus)

“That’s it, good child” (Elena)

She praised Reus and promptly patted his head. Though it’s a simple carrot and stick, I believe it’s very effective for children like Reus. In fact, he’s smiling from ear-to-ear, well done, Elena.

“Your speech will correct itself with time, so for now I shall show you a few attendant movements.” (Elena)

Standing up without a sound, she shows off the attendant movements before the two’s eyes. Though I see it every day, looking at it carefully again I think it’s really splendid.

Even her walking is graceful and her footsteps are barely audible, her bow’s angle goes like the tray of steadily moving water, this technique certainly could be the ideal attendant movement. The two were looking admiringly at the tender mother like work-face that she

usually shows. She did various other movements, and after she finished, the pair spontaneously applauded. They came to want to applaud without even being told to, or rather, it's just that magnificent, isn't it?

"Thank you. It's simple but it's because these are just basic motions, for now, will you give it a try?" (Elena)

""Yes!"" (Reus & Emilia)

Thus, the two mimic the attendant movements, but it naturally doesn't go well, as expected. The footsteps were noisy, the bowing angles were shallow, there were endless things to point out, but Elena made them do it again several times without pointing out anything except for the big mistakes. Her policy is to correct things little by little rather than fixing everything at once.

I blended in the teaching of walking around as well. Though they were surprised at my walking that didn't resound any footsteps, that's an assassin's skill, not an attendant's. But the rest could be helpful so I learned the know-how, just in case.

"That's enough for today. The daily accumulation of experience is important, so you should think back upon it properly before sleep." (Elena)

""Thank you very much"" (Reus & Emilia)

The attendant education took two hours, that's pretty short. I get them to stop it because the rest can be done another time, and I prepare the following training.

However, before that.

"Good job, Elena. Let's eat snacks or something while taking a break." (Sirius)

During the spare time, I made rusk and set it up on a table with some brewed tea. The pair had been waiting with sparkling eyes for Elena to sit in order to sit themselves. They don't try to eat without permission thanks to their education. Elena sits down while thanking

me, and our little tea party starts. I notice that a cat-eared beastkin has mixed in, but I don't mind, yes, I don't mind at all.

"It's so crispy and tasty. Big sis Noel, what is this?" (Emilia)

"I didn't make it so I don't know. Sirius-sama, this is bread, right?" (Noel)

"Yes, it's a sweet made from bread called "Rusk"." (Sirius)

It's a sweet made by cutting bread into a long and narrow sized mouthful and deep-frying it after coating it with sugar. When I explained how to make it, they were impressed by the extent of the change made to common ingredients with a little cooking.

"Fact is that common ingredients like these change in various ways depending on the way you use them. You shouldn't stop considering how to use them just because they're common ingredients. In short, it's important to keep walking ahead." (Sirius)

"But that's just moving your legs, right? There isn't a reason to- There is no reason to stop walking."

"That's not what it means. You'll come to understand that when you're older, just think about it for now. You'll eventually get it." (Sirius)

"I don't really understand…." (Reus)

His face is bitter to me as usual, but didn't it become a little bit better? Like that, the female team was looking at our exchange while laughing.

"You'll have to teach me how to brew tea at some point." (Emilia)

"Naturally, I'll teach you Sirius-sama's way of brewing." (Noel)

"It's just a little plus to the original way of brewing, it's not my personal distinct way of doing it." (Sirius)

“That’s not true. Though I used to be convinced that I had mastered it, it reminded me that I still have way to go before reaching the top.” (Elena)

“Is this tea Sirius-sama’s?” (Emilia)

“That’s right. Sirius-sama’s technique is beyond mine. How is that even possible while you weren’t taught any particular form of etiquette?” (Noel)

“I watched and learned.” (Sirius)

“““Huuuh?””“ (Reus & Emilia & Noel)

What’s with those faces? Do they not believe me?

“Then, shall I try and display it like Elena did earlier? Elena, please act as the master.” (Sirius)

“It’s my honor.” (Elena)

And so, Elena is entertained as a master.

With an elegant bow, the tablewares’ handling is done without a noise, it’s a natural intervention that doesn’t interfere with the master’s actions. These are all things I learned by observing Elena’s movements. Observing your opponent is an important and essential point in fights. If you practice that well, It’s not difficult to perform attendant movements as they are. However, since it’s just an imitation, it eventually gets rusty over time. It would be impudent to compare that to Elena who permeated it through her body and can do it spontaneously.

Finally, I brew the tea and bow down, putting an end to the entertainment.

“Perfect. Both my body and soul were satisfied.” (Elena)

“Ugh, what’s with this sense of defeat? However, Sirius-sama is my master, not a rival. Therefore, it’s all good Emi-chan, alright?” (Noel)

“… The angle is…… And so the foot goes like…… doesn’t it?” (Emilia to herself)

With eyes shut, Emilia mutters something, could it be that she’s doing image training?

“Huh? Emi… chan?” (Noel)

“She seems to be serious somehow. She might overtake you if you’re careless, Noel.” (Sirius)

“In that case, it’s time for special training. This big sister can’t be defeated by someone she stands above of!” (Noel)

Though I neither know nor care where she went to, Noel rushed out of the the living room, full of motivation. It’s strange, I feel like it became strangely noisy here and we didn’t really get to rest much. Well, with the main culprit of the commotion not being here anymore, it should quiet down.

“Sister…” (Reus)

I decided not to look at the lonesomely muttering Reus.

I put an end to the break and start the following teaching.

Reading and writing of letters, simple calculations, it’s time to hammer the basic knowledge necessary for living into the two’s heads. This is going to be taught by me in cooperation with Elena.

“Now then, letters and arithmetic are very important. Why do you think that is?” (Sirius)

“Well…… Do you know, sister?” (Reus)

“Reus, how did we, who didn’t not know those, end up?” (Emilia)

“…… We were cheated?” (Reus)

“Correct. In short, your chances of being cheated will decrease if you know those two things.” (Sirius)

Theft by false pretenses, document deficiency and so forth, there are traps everywhere in society.

For example, a person who can’t use arithmetic or characters, having signed a contract to get a 10 silver coins job, received only 6 silver coins upon finishing taking care of it. Though she of course complains, It’s written on the signed contract that 30% would be taken as a referral fee and she can do nothing but reluctantly give it up, In addition, she doesn’t understand the meaning of 30% so she can’t notice one silver coin being embezzled.

Those are escapable if one knows basic knowledge. In order to see through injustice, one needs to have the knowledge necessary for the sake of avoiding being cheated.

“However, it won’t be a problem when-… I think that, if I get strong, it won’t be a problem.” (Reus)

“Do you intend to just strike from the front like a monster? That just makes one look like a prey for thieves. Listen, no matter how strong one is, he still might be made to agree to wearing a subjugation collar and such without noticing. If you learn earnestly, you’ll save yourself from the cheating adults and you’ll defend those who you want to protect. That’s right, knowledge is power as well.” (Sirius)

It’s a different world but children still hate studying, huh?

However, this world has less margin than my previous life’s, there, you didn’t have a choice but to receive the essential teachings and to instill them diligently in you. But it’s also natural since the only thing he tasted is the bottom of slavery.

“Elena-san! Please teach me Sirius-sama’s words from just now in letters” (Emilia)

“It seems like you too were impressed” (Elena)

“Yes, I thought his previous words were amazing. I want to save them, so I want to learn the characters fast.” (Emilia)

“All right. I fully wrote and accumulated his past wise sayings so, afterwards, I’ll show you my records.” (Elena)

“Please do!” (Emilia)

Hold on a second, she wants to learn the characters in order to make a compilation of my quotes, what’s with that? Rather, when did Elena even do such a thing? I don’t mind a high will to learn, but I seriously want them to stop it because it’s embarrassing.

I made a simplified chart of characters, so as I display it, I compare the names of various things with the chart while teaching them. Since letters are things used everyday, with perseverance and time, one is bound to remember them. *(TLN:Remember that he’s teaching them with something similar to Japanese letters since it’s the author’s language)*

The arithmetic comes to an end normally. Teaching them the digits up to 100, I made them understand those digits and made them repeat one digit additions and subtractions.

I even tested them by making them experience a simulated shopping after passing them one copper coin of allowance. I let them buy the remaining cutlet sandwiches from lunch, I told them they may eat them if they could buy them by calculating properly. Being at the peak of their growth and having become hungry, they’re really desperate to eat.

“Let’s say one unit of these cutlet sandwiches costs three iron coins. Then, how much change would you get if you buy two units of these?” (Sirius)

“Well…… for one copper coin it’s……” (Emilia)

The money of this world is all in the state of coins whose prices are decided according to their materials. Converting it kind of roughly into Japanese yen, it becomes the following.

One stone coin is 1 yen.

One iron coin is 50 yen.

One copper coin is 500 yen.

One silver coin is 5,000 yen.

One gold coin is 100,000 yen.

In addition, there seems to be the higher-ranking white gold coin and dragon gold coin, but I give up on obtaining that for now because it's impossible.

As a reference, with a bunch silver coins, a family of four can live through about one month, I guess? Since the prices held by bartering change depending on the location, I can't say that's how it unconditionally is but that's roughly it.

While Emilia seriously calculated the amount of money, Reus passed the copper coin to me and said.

"Just make it what you want. Because in my case, I might eat more." (Reus)

I received the copper coin, and I decided to include a weak iron claw to his change.

"Huuh?! Why am I receiving the same thing as big sis Noel? It-it's a little painful so stop it, please stop it!" (Reus)

"You got some nerves to give up on the calculation. This is what I'll do from now on when you do foolish things." (Sirius)

"I figured it out! Huh? What's the matter Reus?" (Emilia)

"Don't worry about it. So, how much is the change for one copper coin?" (Sirius)

"It's four iron coins." (Emilia)

"Correct, here, have these cutlet sandwiches." (Sirius)

When I separated my hand from Reus and handed two cutlet sandwiches, Emilia handed her younger brother one of them.

“Big sister, my answer is wrong……” (Reus)

“I don’t need as much as two so it’s allright, okay?” (Emilia)

Though Reus looked this way, together with Elena, I faced elsewhere, feigning ignorance. The two were smiling while biting into their cutlet sandwiches.

“It’s delicious even though It cooled down. Next time, calculate properly and get one, alright?” (Emilia)

“…Yes!” (Reus)

The brother and sister’s relation is excellent.

Elena and I keep looking calmly at the warm scene.

——But.

“All right, we’ll go run outside once you’re done eating that.” (Sirius)

““Eeeeh!?”“ (Reus & Emilia)

My training is not over yet.

Afterwards, I continued running with the two until dinner.

Chapter 16

Wanting to say the truth

— Reus —

My sister has been strange lately.

Even though I say strange, she's still kind to me and she doesn't really look different, however, I noticed that she keeps looking at that guy.

That guy…. Sirius, is the human who helped my sister and I.

Humans only bully us, they beat us with a sneer even if we cry to the them to stop, those detestable guys don't even give us anything when we get hungry. However, that guy is different. He doesn't sneeringly beat us, he gets us to eat a lot of delicious rice, and he immediately does something when we get an injury. Just like my dad —- Not!

Dad was way more kind. He would always watch over me, he knew everything, he was a strong and proud man who would scold me when I had done something bad. That's actually pretty similar to that guy, he too knows a lot of things, and he gets awfully angry when I do something bad. Could it be that dad and that guy are exactly the same?

Why would sister look at such a guy? Whenever he does something, my sister praises him and blushes, but whenever I see her like that, something aches inside me.

However, I like his attendant, Elena-san, even though she's a human.

She's always smiling, gently patting my head, and she smells like mom when she hugs me. During studies, she's severe but she praises me when I do well.

Big sister Noel is amusing and I like her too.

She's very annoying but she's fun to watch, and we often play together. I'm glad I was able to befriend another person similar to my older sister.

Big brother Dee is like an older brother and I like him too.

Though humans are a little scary, he's an amazing person who makes a lot of delicious things. When I become hungry in the middle of the night, he quietly gives me some bread, he's kind.

Being surrounded by the people I love, it feels like I'm back home.

Despite that, all those people I love say that that guy is nothing but amazing. And I think that he certainly is amazing. Even though he is globally similar to me, I'm never able to win a race against him despite never losing against anybody in the village. Dad used to say that silver-wolfkins have to respect strong opponents, but I hate that guy. I hate him though I don't know why.

What's with that? Not only my sister, even I am strange.

For the few days I came to live in this house with that guy's help; I did nothing but running.

I wake up in the morning and I'm made to run, I eat breakfast and I'm made to run, I take a nap, I study and I'm made to run. My sister does it without complaining, but I became quite tired of it. Therefore I said that I wanted to change that, and he proposed to consider it if I'm able to win in a race against him. And so then, I ran hoping not to be defeated by that guy, but dammit I lost this time too. Damn, I won't lose next time for sure. I'll imitate that guy's way of running and surprise him.

I eat a delicious lunch to then study. Still, today's meal was tasty as well. It's unpleasant that it was made by that guy, but I guess I admit that the meals he makes are good, mhm.

After that, I study Elena-san's attendant education.

Although she's smiling as usual, Elena-san looks very cool at the moment. She places plates yet she doesn't make a sound, I wonder how she knows when to prepare the table without

being told? Elena-san says that I'll naturally come to be able to do it when I find a master I want to serve, but I'm a man, I don't want to serve that guy.

However, my sister is working seriously, and, maybe because I want to show Elena-san that I can do good as well, I work with my utmost efforts. Moreover, Elena-san will praise me if I do well, so I try my best.

The following study is called arithmetic or something.

It's a study where the answers to problems are found by adding and subtracting digits, I'm saying that, but It's awfully difficult and gives me headaches. However, that guy said that I won't be fooled by those dumb adults if I become able to do this, so I will.

After we answer some questions and consult books for a short while, that guy passes us real money to buy sweets as practice. Today's sweet is big sister Noel's beloved pudding. I might get it if I answer correctly, so I have to try my best.

"Today's one is difficult. One piece of pudding is 1 iron coin and 10 stone coins, if we buy 4 pieces with 1 copper coin, how much is the change?" (Sirius)

"Yes yees! It's 5 iron coins and 10 stone coiiins! " (Noel)

Big sister Noel, who suddenly came in, stuffed pudding into her mouth and was driven out. She's energetic today as well, huh.

"Forget that. What if one piece of pudding is 1 iron coin and 20 stone coins and we buy five?" (Sirius)

Huh? Isn't it a little different? At any rate, I ponder on it while looking at the money chart that that guy gave me. It's written that 1 copper coin is 10 iron coins so….. hmmm?

"Sirius-sama, how is this?" (Emilia)

"Good, that's correct. I'll give you the pudding." (Sirius)

As expected of my sister, she soon understands and writes down the right answer for that guy. Even if I personally don't understand, my sister is what matters the most, however, I don't want to lose to that fellow in such an unmanly way.

"Though I'm also glad about the pudding, I want you to pat me" (Emilia)

"Good grief, here you go" (Sirius)

"hehehe" (Emilia)

It's here again, that thing aching inside me. I wonder, why do I have such a feeling?

"Reus. Calm down." (Elena)

I calmed down as Elena-san patted my head. That's right, If I don't answer and get the pudding soon, I won't be able to eat with sister. Hmmm, since 1 iron coin is 50 stone coins then…….

"…… the change is three iron coins!" (Reus)

"Correct. You were able to answer well without being confused by the stone coins." (Emilia)

At last, I was able to answer correctly after pondering on it for a while. Though I was able to get the pudding, I felt a little uncomfortable because that guy started patting my head. However, I don't understand why but I don't feel like brushing his hand away.

"It's delicious, right, Reus?" (Noel)

"Yes!" (Reus)

Still, the pudding really is delicious.

As Big sister Noel says, delicious things are justice.

That day, I was not able to sleep for some reason.

I couldn't sleep no matter how many times I closed my eyes, the insides of my chest made a "boom boom" sound, I didn't become somnolent in the slightest, and my throat dried up too. I went out of the room so as not to wake up my sister who was sleeping in the same bed, and when I drank some water in the kitchen, the "boum boum" settled down a little. As I tried going back to my room, my attention suddenly shifted to the entrance-way and I felt like going out for some reason. Being still unsettled, I decide to go outside stealthily.

It was wonderfully bright when I went out. I think it's because of the moon floating in the sky, shining brightly. Though I saw it several times when I was in the village, It looked especially beautiful today.

When I look at the moon, the "boom boom" strengthens, but I can't take my eyes off.

My body is becoming hot…… my energy is boiling…….

Huh?

What the…… Why?

Sister…… I…….

I…….

hate…… this…….

◆ ◆ ◆

— Sirius —

"Reus looks weird" (Emilia)

Said Emilia at night, having payed a visit to me in my room as I was about to lie down after reading.

"Indeed, he certainly seemed weird during today's training." (Sirius)

He usually runs so as not to be defeated by me without hiding his fighting instinct, but today, it felt like he wanted nothing but using up his power.

“Something was off about him yesterday night, it felt like he was unusually agitated.” (Emilia)

“Did something happen at night? Please tell me what you remember.” (Sirius)

“Yes, last night, I saw Reus get out of his room, not being able to sleep. When I thought about looking for him after a while passed, he returned, but he lied down and hid under his blanket in a hurry.” (Emilia)

“That’s suspicious. And so?” (Sirius)

“He showed up this morning so I was very relieved, I even asked what happened, but It turned out to be no more than a trifling matter.” (Emilia)

“Is that so? I would have preferred you to report this within this morning if possible.” (Sirius)

“S-sorry. But Reus is very desperate so……” (Emilia)

I guess it can’t be helped for them to be indulgent toward each other, they’re relatives after all. At any rate, she seems to feel anxious, so let us go on with the questioning.

“Go call Elena and Reus. He might speak if it’s with Elena.” (Sirius)

“Understood.” (Emilia)

Having confirmed that Emilia went out of the room to call the two, I check back on Reus’ state once again.

Although his appetite was vigorous and he ate more than usual, that competitive guy suddenly put aside victory and defeat, and appeared to be frightened of something. Having thought of the cause behind Reus’ behavior, I instantly activated [Search].

“Sirius-sama!” (Emilia)

Emilia flounced in the room with a tearful face. She’s gripping a slip of paper in her hands.

“Reus…… Reus…… he went out of the house!” (Emilia)

–We gathered in the living room.

It seems like when Emilia returned to her room at that time, she found this poorly written letter that had been left on her bed.

[I have things to do so I’m leaving. Sirius-sama, please treat my elder sister well.] *(Reus’ letter)*

That’s the content of the note which I showed the attendants to inquire on their opinions.

“However, what’s with this suddenly? I think that he’s not the kind of fellow who would run away from training but….” (Elena)

“That’s right. That child didn’t have such a personality.” (Noel)

“I think so too.” (Emilia)

“So do I.” (Sirius)

Everyone seems to understand that that fellow wouldn’t run away.

Next, I tried asking Emilia, who knows Reus best, but I was cut off as she was desperately crying while holding onto Noel’s shoulders.

“Emilia, you’ll be able to cry afterwards so please endure it for now and tell me. Did Reus hate living here?” (Sirius)

“That’s….. impossible. Everyone’s kind treatment…… it’s so joyful …… for him to just run away….. that’s absolutely impossible!” (Emilia)

“Is that so? Thank you. Then i guess there is another reason…… is it related to last night after all?” (Sirius)

“Did something happen last night?” (Elena)

“Ah yes, actually……” (Sirius)

I tell them about Reus’ conduct that Emilia mentioned earlier, but in the end, none of them comprehends any of it and they’re all simply in wonder. As expected.

“I have to hear him out directly, huh” (Sirius)

“Are you going to pick him up?” (Emilia)

“No, it’s useless to bring him back by force, so I’m only going to hear out his motives. I identified his location and he’s at a distance that I can catch up to by flying.” (Sirius)

I already caught on Reus’ position with [Search]. I don’t immediately go to pick him up out of respect for his independence. Though I do train disciples, If those disciples find other goals or dreams, I have as a principle to respect that. I wanted to raise Dee as a disciple in the past, but he said that he wants to become a cook so I can only root for him.

Therefore, I don’t intend to stop Reus either if he left voluntarily, however, for him to leave his sister Emilia without a word is going too far. I intend to, at least, hear his motives.

“It’s already pitch dark and dangerous outside by this time. I’m the only one fit to go since I can fly.” (Sirius)

“Sirius-sama, the weapons.” (Elena)

Elena has already geared me up, she equipped me with a belt with a knife and a sword attached to it. Although I don’t plan to fight, I still need to prepare properly. When Elena confirmed that the weapons were firmly fixed, Emilia stood in front of her and bowed down.

“Please! Please take me along too!” (Emilia)

“Elena” (Sirius)

“Understood. Emilia, change to this” (Elena)

“Huuuuh?” (Emilia)

She might have thought that she’d be rejected, but Emilia was dumbfounded as she received the top and lower clothes.

“What is it? Hurry and go change your clothes.” (Sirius)

“Hu…… Hmm, Is it really alright?” (Emilia)

“It’s only natural, isn’t it? Isn’t he your younger brother? Even if you don’t understand his choices, you can’t consent to him making arbitrary decisions, right?” (Sirius)

“….Thank you– very much!” (Emilia)

She bows down to me with watery eyes, but this is far from being over. I give a eye signal to Noel, asking her to pull Emilia and get done with changing her clothes.

“Understood. Emi-chan, you’ll cry later so hurry and get dressed.” (Sirius)

“Yes!” (Emilia)

She retreats to her room, and while waiting for her to changes her clothes, I consult Elena and Dee.

“We might get attacked by monsters, so I want you to prepare some medicines and such.” (Sirius)

“Please leave it to me. We’ll be waiting for the three of you to come home.” (Elena)

“I shall prepare something warm too.” (Dee)

“Please get in touch with me if something happens” (Sirius)

“‘Understood.”‘ (Elena & Dee)

Emilia came out as soon as I left the entrance hall. She’s wearing the clothes she was given, a thick, robust half coat and pair of trousers that adventurers wear and which are easy to move in.

“Sorry to have kept you waiting.” (Emilia)

“It’s alright, let’s get going quick. Get on my back.” (Sirius)

“Y-Yes! Then, excuse me” (Emilia)

As I turned my back to her and squatted down, Emilia got on it even though she was a little bewildered. For safety, I firmly fix her to me with [String]. We get closer and Emilia gets thoroughly agitated.

“Ahaah! Si-Sirius-sama?!” (Emilia)

“You’re safely fixed with magic so you don’t have to worry about falling. Then, everyone, we’re leaving.” (Sirius)

“G-goodbye!” (Emilia)

“‘‘‘Be safe.”‘‘‘ (Elena & Dee & Noel)

With the attendants’ voices on our backs, Emilia and I started flying in the sky.

“Aren’t you scared?” (Sirius)

“I-I’m alright!” (Emilia)

I restrained the speed and altitude more than usual, but flying over the night sky for the first time is likely to feel scary. Though there are arms circling my neck with a considerable force, my strengthened self can handle it.

“At such times, you should look up. Here, try to watch the moon.” (Sirius)

“Ye-yes!.....wow..” (Emilia)

Emilia gets closer as she contemplates the moon and her arms loosen up. I continued flying silently for a while, and Emilia, who settled down, suddenly muttered.

“I wonder if Reus…. is watching this moon too” (Emilia)

“Yeah. Wouldn’t he unexpectedly be watching the moon while sobbing lonesomely?” (Sirius)

“Hehe, that’s quite possible. Really…… what a foolish child” (Emilia)

“Right, he sure is foolish. I’ll give him a hard beating if his motives are foolish too” (Sirius)

“I’ll slap him on the cheek too” (Emilia)

“That’s the spirit. I’ll raise the speed a little” (Sirius)

“Yes!” (Emilia)

Though I checked with [Search], the reaction from Reus was stagnant. Given the possibility of him being in a situation where he can’t move, I kept increasing my flight speed which Emilia was getting accustomed to.

Relying on the reaction, we finally arrived at the lake where I had gathered the kelpie grass before.

There is no goblin staying there this time, I landed with relief due to the absence of any dangerous monsters in the surroundings. I unload Emilia from my back, and we start walking while looking for Reus.

“Reuus! Where are you?!” (Emilia)

“There is no need to speak up” (Sirius)

When letting out a loud voice in an area where monsters lurks, one might gather the monsters. Fortunately, there is no response from the environs, but superfluous actions should be avoided. Besides.

“But!” (Emilia)

“It’s alright, Reus is right there” (Sirius)

I pointed ahead at the edge of the lake where there appeared the back figure of Reus who was sitting in cower. Emilia tried to approach the runaway Reus, however.

“Reus!” (Emilia)

“Don’t come!” (Reus)

She was rejected by a threatening voice unfit to be used toward an elder sister. Confused by the abrupt action, Emilia unintentionally came to a halt.

“Reus? What are you saying? You’re going home with big sister, right?” (Emilia)

“I said don’t come!” (Reus)

The rejection doesn’t stop. But still, Emilia braces herself up and calls out to her younger brother.

“What exactly is going on? Didn’t we say that we would work hard together? What’s the point if you do it alone, separated from everyone?!” (Emilia)

“I am alright now. I got physical strength by running, I gained knowledge by studying. I can manage by myself!” (Reus)

“Don’t joke around! That much wouldn’t make you become strong!” (Emilia)

“I did become strong! I..... I became strong!” (Reus)

The conversation was at cross-purposes, so I decided to intervene given the waste of time that would result from letting the dispute go on like that. When I tapped Emilia's shoulder, she turned around and looked up here while shedding tears.

"I'm sorry, I'll-I'll persuade him immediately so-" (Emilia)

"Back off the conversation. I can't let you unnerve each other so I'll deal with this." (Sirius)

"snif…Yes…" (Emilia)

I approach Reus in the back of Emilia who steps back in sadness. Well now, why on earth did he run away from home?

"Hey there, Reus. What are you doing in this kind of place?" (Sirius)

"…… It's none of your concern." (Reus)

"It is my concern. I am your guardian and teacher. Isn't it natural for me to worry when my disciple runs away?" (Sirius)

"I don't recall becoming your disciple!" (Reus)

"You became so the moment you were taught by me. Besides, I offered you meals and a bed, I deserve to be heard out, don't you agree?" (Sirius)

"……." (Reus)

"Silence, huh? Anyway, answer. Why did you leave the house? Leaving behind such a note isn't going to justify it." (Sirius)

"…… I've become stronger " (Reus)

"You became stronger with that amount of training? That's a huge misunderstanding, don't get overconfident." (Sirius)

With my provocative objection, Reus stood up, looked over his shoulder, and yelled.

“I became stronger than you. Take my sister and go back home!” (Reus)

“Even though you lost today’s race too? You’re saying you became strong but those are just the empty words of some brat.” (Sirius)

“Shut up! Shut up shut up shut up!” (Reus)

He struggles and kicks the ground in a child’s temper. Although his feelings were unstable from the start, they should have been somewhat eased thanks to Elena, it seems unlikely for those feeling to explode in just a single day.

“You babble but you don’t understand so…… Look at this!” (Reus)

“-!? Reus…… this can’t be… right?” (Emilia)

I looked back toward the sound of Emilia who sank down to the floor on the spot with an unbelieving face. When I returned my gaze to Reus once again, the silver of his hair that was reflecting the moonlight…… had turned to gold.

“What is it?” (Sirius)

“That is… Reus is a curse child…” (Emilia)

Though Emilia is despairing one her own, I don’t get the meaning at all. But Emilia’s reaction is too excessive for it to be some racial trait.

“What’s that? Tell me if you know.” (Sirius)

“That’s… We, the silver wolf tribe, have what’s called a “curse child” as a descendant” (Emilia)

A curse child? It’s my first time hearing the name and it doesn’t appear on Alberto’s travel diary either, but It certainly doesn’t sound good.

“Ugh, grrrrAAAAAAH!” (Reus)

A strange phenomenon started happening to Reus' body. His short hair grew, his muscles bulged, his nose expanded, fur grew all over his body and Reus… transformed into a two-legged wolf. The clothes left on his body barely manage to save a vestige of Reus. Ooh, is this a werewolf?

"The whole body of a curse child is transformed into a wolf. It is said that he will call upon calamity and misfortune…… in accordance to the law of the silver wolf tribe, he is to be…. disposed of.." (Emilia)

"Disposed of? What a disturbing story" (Sirius)

"Two years ago, one adult in my village suddenly became a curse child. That person was confused and began to act violently, and the moment he tried to attack us, my father…… killed him." (Emilia)*(TLN: I'll just assume it's a male)*

"Was he killed before you guys' eyes?" (Sirius)

"Yes…" (Emilia)

I think I understand Reus' motives somehow.

He knows that he himself is a curse child, having seen the outcome of that before his eyes, he's desperate from the thought of ending up the same too. However, he doesn't want to die and he couldn't stay with his sister so he ran away… or something like that?

"Look, I am a curse child! A curse child that will get killed like that adult! I don't want that so I'll run away. Therefore, take my sister and go back home!" (Reus)

"Reus… that's no good. You…. you can't go" (Emilia)

"Sister… stay healthy, alright? I'm very strong in this form so I'm safe. I can live by myself so-" (Reus)

"You can't… Reus. Don't… don't leave me alone…" (Emilia)

Emilia also knows the laws of the silver wolf tribe, she understands Reus' actions. He's bound to the chain called "law", there is no power in the voice of the suffering girl. Although in reality she probably wants to stop him and capture him by force, her feet don't move and she just quietly sheds tears.

Her insides are wrapped in both helplessness and despair….

"How foolish." (Sirius)

I laughed scornfully.

"Eeeeh!? Si…rius-sama?" (Emilia)

"What's that?! Try and say it again!" (Reus)

"I'll say it any number of times. How foolish, for real, so foolish" (Sirius)

Emilia got shocked by my words, Reus got furious but I ignored him and raised a finger.

"Reus, let's have a match. If you can win against me, you can go wherever you want. However, if I win, you'll accept to comply with one thing I'll say." (Sirius)

"What? Didn't you say that you'd let me do whatever I like if something happens? Yet now that I'm doing what I want, you're stopping me, you liar!" (Reus)

"I don't want to be called a liar by a fellow who's lying himself. Besides, is "this" what you want to do? Hilarious" (Sirius)

Though I certainly do respect a person's own independence, that's only if we're able to consent to it mutually. Say that I become intimate with a woman I want to protect and she feels like separating, if that woman ever deceives my disciples, I'll still stop her and beat her, even if she's a woman.

"You became strong, right? If you're confident in winning, hurry and come at me" (Sirius)

While inviting him with my hand, I remove the weapon belt where I equipped the knife and sword. I didn't take my eyes off Reus who began to let out a wolf-like groan, audible enough to be heard by Emilia.

"Listen Emilia!" (Sirius)

"-! Yes!" (Emilia)

"I'll educate this guy now. Is that alright?" (Sirius)

"Please… do it" (Emilia)

I throw the weapon belt toward her, and in an empty handed stance, I position my legs in an L shape and stretch out my arm.

"Always, always that same self-important look. I'll show you my strength!" (Reus)

While glaring with his eyes, Reus, who became a werewolf, approached.

"Eat thiiis!" (Reus)

Reus' right hand is thrust straight in a roundhouse punch, I decide to strike the fist aside…… but I hurriedly switch to avoiding it by twisting my body. When I notice the wind pressure of the fist passing through my right cheek, I drop my body to dodge and I immediately attack with a left hook.

Since his unprotected belly is visible before my eyes, I drive my fist toward it without hesitation…….

"…… it doesn't hurt!" (Reus)

It wasn't really effective it seems, he expressed a ferocious smile in rejection so I stepped back and took some distance…. This is more than expected.

"Fast and strong too huh" (Sirius)

“How about that? I became strong, right?!” (Reus)

“You certainly did” (Sirius)

“I won’t allow you to apologize!” (Reus)

Reus, who approaches once again, rushes in a raging flow. I avoid a right hook, evade a left uppercut with a turn of the neck, and, defending against a left front kick with both arms, I’m forced to retreat. Since I withdraw too much, my back bumps into a tree, and on account of the opportunity, Reus thrusts out a straight right punch, so I do a long jump on the side to avoid it. The moment his fist hit, the tree was broken with a loud snapping sound. What a destructive power for a mere five-years-old. Though I did parry him with my arms, they’re still numb.

“What is it? Can you do nothing but dodge?!” (Reus)

“Say what you will” (Sirius)

In a mid-range jump, he plunges down a drop-kick, so I shift half of my body aside to dodge and I counter by shoving my right fist to his stomach. However, it’s like hitting a hard wall, there is no damage or reaction.

“Hahaha, It’s not painful at all! I became that strong!” (Reus)

Though Reus outstretched his hand with a sneer in an attempt to catch me, I aimed at the moment when his hand came near and dealt a right kick on his flank to destroy his balance. Reus fell back several steps from the impact of the kick but then regained his balance as if nothing happened.

“It’s not going to work! It’s my win so give up already!” (Reus)

He greatly draws back his fist and strikes out with a telephone punch loaded with power and momentum. He’s transformed, so I leap away, because I’ll be done for if I simply block the fast and strong fist that is approaching. *(TLN: Telephone punch: Get your fist near your nose, aim at the opponent and strike him, easy to see, hard to dodge if done right)*

However——.

“You fight like a child” (Sirius)

A telephone punch is a punch that is struck straight in an easy to predict way.

I avoid that punch filled with opportunity, I step toward Reus’ bosom, and I seize him by the collar and pull him toward me while kicking his leg hard, making him trip up. Thereupon, Reus rotated three times in the air on the spot, from front to back, and defenselessly fell to the ground.

“Ughhh!?… how!?” (Reus)

It’s a technique that disorients the semicircular canals, done by rotating the opponent in a way he doesn’t expect. Though it’s very dangerous to do it on an amateur, I understand it enough to execute it to the extent that it, at most, paralyzes the sense of balance temporarily. Proof is that Reus couldn’t stand up, and, on his knees, he looked up here with a surprised expression.

“No matter how fast and strong you are, don’t go thinking that understanding techniques is mere child’s play” (Sirius)

I mean, beginning with an easy to avoid roundhouse strike, doing a dropkick without any feints, and finishing with a telephone punch? Is he taking the fight lightly? I wanted to hit him seriously so many times on the way.

“D…. dammiiiit” (Reus)

However, it’s not completely over yet, he stood up, though staggeringly, and went to take a strike on me. I acknowledge his guts and his recovery speed, but I’ll give a demerit for aiming at the head of a smaller target. I dodge with a mere neck movement, and I drive a fist in the pit of Reus’ stomach.

“Aggh- uuugh!” (Reus)

With the unexpected blow, Reus took two or three steps back, crouched, and threw up the contents of his stomach.

Although I guess he thought he could endure most of it, my attacks up until the one just now were done without [Boost]. The purpose was to probe his defensive power, but since I already figured out its extent, I only hit him without crossing a line so as not to kill him.

“Guuuh, aaaah……it-it’s just a fluke!” (Reus)

You think there is such a thing as a fluke on a battleground? At any rate, the after-effects of the my strike subsided, I guess one ought to recover at once when receiving such an obvious and predictable frontal attack.

Or so I think but it’s baseless, and as a rotating right kick was aimed at my side, I dropped my body to evade it, therefore brushing away all the strength put in the turning foot. Furthermore, I instantly gripped Reus’ unsteady foot, and made him rotate several times before throwing him to the ground.

“How about it, Reus? Can you really go live on your own with this kind of strength?” (Sirius)

“Not…. so fast. I still…… haven’t…… lost” (Reus)

Reus’ fighting spirit has yet to wither, and, although staggeringly, he displays his rising fist. Oh, he went for a bunch of small attacks instead of a roundhouse this time, huh? Well done.

I avoid the consecutive small attacks, and, each time a roundhouse occasionally blends in, I strike a blow back. However, Reus keeps attacking without flinching. The more than 30 exchanges continued and, looking at Reus’ face, he was weeping while continuously striking his fists.

「素人だな」
先の読める攻撃を避けるのは簡単だ。
時折大振りの攻撃が放たれるので、
その隙を突いて殴り返す。

“Why…. Why is it…… not hitting? Why…… won’t you fall?” (Reus)

“There is now way I’d fall with such child’s play” (Sirius)

“Fall down… let me win… let me go….” (Reus)

“Really? You want to go?” (Sirius)

“I want to go… I have… to go. A curse child… shouldn’t stay” (Reus)

I swing a no longer filled with strength punch at his right cheek, making him fly, fall down and gouge out the ground. While spilling blood from bitting his mouth’s inside with his teeth, Reus stands up, but that’s all he does. I approach the direction of the unmoving Reus, and when I find myself before him, I look into the eyes of the child who’s frightened of himself.

“I’ll ask again. Do you really want to part from us?” (Sirius)

“That’s… right. If I don’t… my sister… my sister will become unhappy!” (Reus)

He hits me with a punch that squeezes out his last ounce of strength, I catch the front blow with one hand, and I grab Reus’ collar.

“Reus, look at me” (Sirius)

“… What is iiit?” (Reus)

I pull him up to me, and I’m reflected in the wolf’s sharp eyes.

“What am I? Do I look like a silver-wolfkin to you?” (Sirius)

“No……” (Reus)

“That’s right, I’m a human. Therefore, I don’t know about your curse child thing, and I don’t care. As long as I’m concerned, you’re just a normal child who can turn into a wolf. Rather, It’ll be my pleasure you to raise you because you’ll become pretty strong” (Sirius)

“huh….. ah?” (Reus)

“The laws of the silver-wolfkins? Such nonsense! Those laws are unrelated to you, my disciple. Even so, if someone foolishly musters a complaint, I’ll give him a beating.” (Sirius)

“I… am your disciple?” (Reus)

“Emilia, come!” (Sirius)

“Y-yes!” (Emilia)

I called Emilia who was watching in a daze, pointed out Reus to her and asked.

“What do you want to do? Do you want to kill the curse child by the laws of the silver-wolf tribe?” (Sirius)

Although Reus trembled at the word “kill”, Emilia confusedly shook her head.

“Then, do you want to separate and forget about him? What do you want to do? Speak your thoughts!” (Sirius)

“I… I… no. Be it killing Reus, or separating from him, I don’t want any of it! If I can be with Reus, then it’ll be alright no matter the law!” (Emilia)

Emilia cried out her thoughts and broke the chain called “law”. I look into Reus’ eyes once again.

“It’s just as you heard, neither your sister nor I cares about this curse child thing. Well, I’ll ask again. Do you want to go away?” (Sirius)

“…N-No” (Reus)

Though I don’t understand the principle behind it, his body changed, appearing to be winding back, and the transformation was undone. Reus’ face, which returned to its origin, is covered with tears and mucus, I think the siblings’ messy faces are completely alike. As

his messy face distorted even further, he shed tears like they were pouring off a sink and shouted.

“No… No no no! I don’t want to be alone! I don’t want to be lonely! I don’t want to be separated from my sister! I want Elena-san to pat me more! I want to play more with big sister Noel! I want to eat more of big brother Dee’s meals! I don’t want to go-! I want to…. go back home….” (Reus)

Crying and shouting, Reus spit out his real intentions which he had desperately hidden.

And that’s good. Because he’s a child, he should say what he wants to say without restraint. After all, he has a lot to say precisely because he’s a child.

When I handed over Reus to Emilia who came near, she embraced him closely without worrying about his dirtied body.

“Reus…… I’m relieved…… Reus” (Emilia)

“Sister…… I’m sorry. I’m so sorry” (Reus)

And, on the backs of the siblings hugging each other while shedding tears, I retrieve and equip my weapon belt as I recall that I put it on.

“Reus, come to think of it, we said that you’d comply with one thing I say if I win the match, right?” (Sirius)

It’s certainly my victory no matter how anyone looks at it. Though he shivers to my words, a match is a match. Let’s assume that I am allowed to order him without any mercy.

“Sirius-sama, I’ll do it on his stead. Therefore, about Reus…” (Emilia)

“Sister, you can’t” (Reus)

“That’s right. It’s our match so it’s wrong for you to meld in, Emilia. Reus, hear me well.” (Sirius)

I looked into his face, and ordered him while rising a smile.

“Go back home” (Sirius)

“…. yes” (Reus)

Thinking back upon it now that it’s over, I’m ashamed to have acted so violently.

However, I returned Reus home properly as I was asked to, so, all is well that ends well.

And being somewhat reckless as a child isn’t a problem, right?

Thus, the turmoil from Reus’ absconding came to an end. *(ED: means “the acting of running away.”.)*

Chapter 17

Oath of the Silver Moon

The morning after the turmoil from Reus' absconding, I was training by myself on the summit of a mountain.

I've been running in the garden with the two disciples lately, but still, It would be cruel to do training early in the morning right after yesterday. Or rather, It's because I went too far and made Reus full of injuries and not even able to walk. I smile wryly as I recall yesterday's events.

Last night, we, who had brought back Reus, were welcomed by the attendants who waited for our return in front of the house.

"Welcome home, Sirius-sama. And Emilia and Reus too" (Noel)

"Ah, I'm back everyone. However, please nurse Reus at once" (Sirius)

"Please leave it to me." (Dee)

"Woow, he's full of injuries. Will ointment be enough?" (Noel)

I passed the passed out and exhausted out Reus to Dee and he entered the house with Noel. I unloaded Emilia who was mounting my back, and I finally settled down.

"However, even if I say so myself, I went too far" (Sirius)

"But it was necessary. It's just the result of you two facing each other seriously, so you shouldn't worry about it" (Elena)

"No, I'm not worrying, but I just think that it would have been better to go easy on him. I've let my feelings take over and I didn't hold back enough." (Sirius)

“It’s fine, because this is also a whip of love. He will refrain from these kinds of selfish actions in the future, right?” (Elena)

“You sure are unscrupulous. Well, you can say that.” (Sirius)

As my whole being felt shivers at Elena’s wholly positive thinking, I suddenly noticed Emilia standing behind quietly. Though she didn’t utter a single word until we came back home, is she going to scold me for beating Reus now that she has collected herself?

“What’s the matter? Are you not going to where Reus is?” (Sirius)

“Ah… Yes. I-I’ll go immediately!” (Emilia)

She ran through my side in a rush when I called out to her, but she stopped on the way, retraced her steps, and bowed in front of me.

“Sirius-sama, honestly… Thank you very much. We siblings can be together, and it’s thanks to you, Sirius-sama” (Emilia)

“Ah, yes, you’re welcome. If nothing else, I’m glad that you’re safe” (Sirius)

“Yes! And I’ll also keep following you anywhere” (Emilia)

Emilia looks up at me in feverish excitement. Huh… could this be…?

“E-excuse me!” (Emilia)

She abruptly apologized, and suddenly embraced me. And as I got bewildered by her sudden action.

“Ouch!” (Sirius)

My shoulder was bitten. Though I leaked out my voice instinctively, It was mostly from surprise as there was little to no pain and no spurting blood either. Before I got to question her sudden action, she muttered something, parted from me, and ran away while blushing to then enter the house.

As I'm left dumbfounded, Elena emits an aura of anger.

"Putting her fangs on master… she needs the punishment that goes by the name of training." (Elena)

"Hold on hold on, that's a habit from the silver wolf tribe, so I wasn't attacked" (Sirius)

To persuade Elena, who was on the verge of attacking, I gave her the explanation about the silver-wolfkins that I heard from Emilia.

For silver-wolfkins, biting a shoulder is a proof of affection. As for the words she murmured to me when she separated.

[I…like you] (Emilia)

It certainly is a step further from last time. This is already… that, huh…

"If I were Noel, I'd say that she completely fell-" (Elena)

"Please don't say it." (Sirius)

Yes, it's clear for anyone to see. That's a maiden who's completely in love, isn't it~?

I saved her younger brother from the curse child's despair and her admiration for me passed and evolved to love. This is bad, it's becoming a situation similar to the one Noel talked about. Though I don't particularly dislike the girl, we're still both young and it would be bad if we don't discuss it together properly before it gets oddly complicated.

At my worried self, the all-purpose Elena bumped her chest as if saying: "Entrust it to me".

"Sirius-sama, please leave Emilia's matter to me." (Elena)

"Is it alright? If you make her depressed and let her endure it, it would be a problem" (Sirius)

"It's alright. I have a good idea for us to manage to reach a mutual agreement" (Elena)

“Though I’m kind of anxious, I’d better entrust a woman’s matter to a woman” (Sirius)

I leave it to Elena… I trust her, but just this time, I couldn’t wipe off an indescribable uneasiness.

And after that, the treatment of Reus ended, but since then, he didn’t wake up until the rising of morning.

I worked hard in the training on the top of the mountain, so I return to the house by flight.

Having been welcomed by Elena, I heard her out while receiving a towel and a drink and taking care of my body’s maintenance.

“Did the pair get up?” (Sirius)

“Well, not yet. They don’t seem like they’ll be coming out, so I think I’ll go call them soon” (Elena)

“After the strife I’ve perpetrated yesterday, I can understand why they wouldn’t be in the mood to face me” (Sirius)

But still, we’ll have to meet each other since we’re in the same house. And even Emilia is not coming, I think it’s because she doesn’t want to leave Reus alone.

“At worst, shall I put a meal in front of their room to lure them out?” (Elena)

“Not right now. Anyway, breakfast is ready so let us go. Dee seemed to be enthusiastic today, too” (Sirius)

It’s not like I’m holding a festival to lure out Amaterasu from Amanoiwato, but isn’t it pitiful to treat them like animals by alluring them with food? However, that guy is like a pet wolf so… unexpectedly, I think I wouldn’t feel any kind of guilt even if I do it, I’m quite cruel. *(TLN: Amaterasu was hiding in the Amanoiwato cave, the deities couldn’t find a way to lure her out, but the deity Uzume lured her out by dancing in front of the cave, therefore, she somehow started a party with other deities who were amused by the dance,*

that managed to pick Amaterasu's curiosity and make her come out, then they made her see her own reflect on a mirror to make her come out completely and they closed the cave behind her, because no Amaterasu means no sun, and that's kind of a problem)

""Good morning, Sirius-sama"" (Noel & Dee)

Though Noel and Dee are sitting in front of the table on which the breakfast is set up, there is still no sign of the pair. All the members of the gathering sat with hungry gazes, and when Noel stood up deciding to leave the living room.

"Ahuh? Did you two wake up?" (Noel)

""-!?"" (Emilia & Reus)

The two who were looking into here through the door were discovered. The two panicked, but Noel threw the door open, allowing no more discussion, and drew them inside.

"Good…. morning" (Emilia)

"… *sob*" (Reus)

Emilia, who seems embarrassed, has eyes swollen with tears, and Reus is looking down with red eyes, trying not to meet her line of sight.

"Reus, what about the morning greetings?" (Emilia)

"uh….. G, Good…. m-mor…ning" (Reus)

"Yes, very well. Then, hurry and sit. The breakfast will get cold" (Sirius)

"Here here, both of you go ahead and sit" (Noel)

With their backs pushed by Noel, the two reluctantly sit on their seats. Though bread and bacon was lined up on the breakfast table, only Reus had nothing laid in front him. He was clearly disappointed by that fact.

“You, have this.” (Dee)

However, though a little late, Dee prepared him a warm soup. Looking at Dee, he’s expressionless as always, but the angle of his mouth rises slightly.

“It’s because your mouth’s insides have been injured. You’re okay with eating this, so eat that.” (Dee)

Explaining that plainly, Dee also takes a seat at the dining table. As the two dumbfoundedly looked at that action, we matched our hands.

“Then, everyone, let us pray. Itadakimasu.” (Sirius)

“““Itadakimasu”““ (Elena & Emilia & Noel)

“Itadakimasu” (Reus)

Breakfast starts with a signal from Elena. By the way, though there is a common practice of praying to god before meals, there is no “Itadakimasu” so I made it known. Though confused, the two matched their hands toward the meal, but as he sipped the soup, Reus had a bitter face. It’s probably entering the intraoral wounds.

“Mmmh? Should I have gotten it to cool down a little after all? It seems it’s so warm it’s painful” (Sirius)

“But warm things are delicious” (Reus)

“Right~? Though it’s the first soup you guys had, do you understand its taste, Reu-kun?” (Noel)

“Is it… tasty?” (Dee)

Maybe out of worry about the quality of the soup I taught him, Dee waits for Reus’ reaction with a throbbing heart, expressionlessly. And Reus, whose tears rose, came to attention.

“y-…yes. It’s tasty… very tasty…”

He sheds tears, and though they fall into the soup, Reus' spoon doesn't stop. Having finished eating more than fast, Reus bowed vigorously.

"I'm sorry! I'm sorry for acting so selfishly. I won't do such things anymore, so… please let me stay with my elder sister!"

Though everyone's hands stopped at the abrupt repentance, Elena put down her tableware while wiping her mouth.

"Reus, I wonder, do you remember what Sirius-sama told you to get you to come back?" (Elena)

"…He said "Go back home"…" (Reus)

"In that case, it's all good. Welcome home again, Reus" (Elena)

""""Welcome home"""" (Elena & Dee & Noel)

"Uwaa… Uuu…" (Reus)

His tears overflow even though he wipes them. Today, I think it's the first time Reus became conscious, from the bottom of his heart, of being a member of this house.

"You must be hungry. Can you eat bread despite the pain?" (Noel)

"Eat meat too. It will make you strong." (Dee)

"Reus, I'll share my eggs" (Emilia)

"Yes… I'll… eat it all" (Reus)

He was spoiled by his elder sister, Noel and company, and the noisy breakfast continued for a while.

After breakfast, Reus came over in front of me as I was drinking my after-meal tea. His jealousy toward me from before completely disappeared, right now, he's just a child at a loss as to how to start a conversation. I'll cast that aside this time since It can't be helped.

"What is it? You have some business with me?" (Sirius)

"Hmm….. Sirius-sama, I'm sorry. And, thank you" (Reus)

"Yes yes, you're welcome. However, even though I'm the one who hit you, I'll let the injury heal on its own. That's in order to carve your blunder firmly." (Sirius)

"Yes!" (Reus)

He finally reached the point of smiling at me? I tried patting his head as an experiment, but he didn't behave like he disliked it and was shyly swinging his tail. What's with this change?…… I want to do a doya-gao right now.

"Which reminds me of that child-curse thing. What about that? Though you're turned back now, will you involuntarily transform when the night comes?" (Sirius)

"I don't become it as long as I believe I don't want to become it. Though it makes my heart throb a little when I look at the moon, I can endure it." (Reus)

The transformation seems to be controllable. He said it's when he looks at the moon, thank goodness the forced transformation's requirement isn't the coming of the night. However, I don't know about when he'll grow up, I suppose I should investigate with various experiments. Anyway, I made him promise to report immediately if something happens without recklessly transforming himself. Since his initial character is obedient, the argument ends smoothly without any objections.

"Sirius-sama, I want to become strong. So as to be able to protect my sister, and to not lose against things like the child-curse, I want to become strong like you, Sirius-sama" (Reus)

"Like me… huh. It will be hard, so follow me thoroughly" (Sirius)

“Yes!” (Reus)

Emilia and Reus have shaken free from various things, and finally departed from the starting line. From here on, my true skills will be tested. I can’t neglect my personal training as a teacher while training the two either. Though the road ahead is long and difficult, it’s worth taking.

Today, the training of the pair is completely canceled. I told Reus not to overdo it and made him take a rest, and Emilia was led to her room by Elena. I mean, she never matched her eyes with mine since this morning. But with Elena’s abilities, those problems and yesterday’s should get settled.

Therefore, I thought about heading to Lior’s house, however, Dee said that he’d make me a lunch box. And since he said that it would take an hour, I swung a wooden sword in the garden for a while to kill time.

Mighty piercing sword style, strong dash from the mighty sky. Having traced the movements I observed in numerous fights, I move my body according to the image I have of them. This is a style that kills without fail with one stroke of a sword, and since the ability to do a sure hit is indispensable for it, training it repeatedly is very important. I tried imitating [Chiyabu] that releases eight slashes in one breath, but I was limited to six with the [Boost] status. Although it was the result of my lack of strength and skills, that old man can do it with his heavy iron sword. I comprehend once again that he’s a monster.

As I was swinging around roughly and sweating lightly, I stopped on the spot, a silhouette was hiding and peeking toward here. Needless to say that it’s Reus, but, although I told him to go take a rest, that guy is quite energetic. I drag him out of the bush where he’s hiding, wanting to hear out and judge what he has to say,.

“What the hell are you doing? Are you alright with not taking a rest?” (Sirius)

“I plan to do what you are doing, Sirius-sama. Besides, my body doesn’t hurt anymore” (Reus)

What a fast recovery. Is this the child-curse's influence as well? Come to think of it, is this the first time sword handling was shown to Reus? Mhm…. I should make him experience various things, right?

"Though it was swordsmanship I learned by imitating others, what did you think?" (Sirius)

"It was amazing. Those swings swishing through the air were very cool" (Reus)

"Is that so? Then, want to try swinging it?" (Sirius)

When I presented him the wooden sword and let him take it, his face brighten like he had received a new toy.

"…..Is it alright?" (Reus)

"Don't try to swing it to an unreasonable extent. And stop if your body starts hurting" (Sirius)

He's the kind of fellow for whom experience is everything. Though I don't know how Reus' fighting style will turn out, swinging a sword can't be a waste of time.

Though Reus joyfully swings the sword, the sound of his practice swings, made without any understanding, is very miserable. His appearance is amusing as he gets puzzled by the difference in sound with a question mark above his head. *(TLN: The sound of the swings is important in Kendo etc…)*

"Why?" (Reus)

"Your grip is too soft, which is only natural if you swing it with your arms only." (Sirius)

I make him return the wooden sword, truthfully…… I don't know whether or not I should demonstrate an imitation of Lior's practice swings to him. Though swordsmanship is out of my area of expertise, I will enlighten the points that I can point out.

“Though you’re right-handed, when you hold a sword with both hands, the left hand becomes important. Also, when you hold the sword, don’t grip it with all of your fingers, rather, you should tighten your little finger and your ring finger and rise your index finger.”

I demonstrate the technique in front of Reus, and I pass him the wooden sword again. Though what I taught him is the way to hold a katana, I think it will work out with no problems with this sword as well. I’ll ask Lior for confirmation just in case.

When he went on swinging the sword again, the sound of the practice swings had improved, though just a little. He’s an unexpectedly fast learner.

“Sirius-sama, I’m sorry to have kept you waiting. Oh, Reus with a sword?” (Dee)

“It’s a little experiment. His aptitudes are quite good” (Sirius)

Dee came over holding a big pouch with a lunch box inside, but seeing Reus swinging a sword, he halted. Having given him a small explanation to the situation, I receive the lunch box, and I put it away in my shoulder bag.

“Dee, I want you to look after him if you have time. Well then, I’m off” (Sirius)

““Have a good day”“ (Dee & Reus)

I’m seen off by the two and I operate my magic in order to head towards Lior’s place. On the way, when I looked back just a little bit, Dee seemed to be giving out some advices. Do your best, young man.

“Aaagh-!” (Sirius)

I’m unable to repel Lior’s surprise attack, and I’m blown away by his direct hit. Though my body rebounds several times on the ground, I regain my balance in the air and succeed in landing. However, with the attack just now, my right hand is completely out. I’d carry on, but it would probably be over If this was the real thing instead of a wooden sword, so this is it.

“…. I give up.” (Sirius)

“Haa…… ha…… same…” (Lior)

Lior seemed to have hit his limit as well, he sat down, smiling with a satisfied mind. Dammit, I’ve been defeated after a long time.

However, the last attack was perfectly done. For Lior who has been called Goutsurugi, sure kill single blows are the standard, even if he has techniques with a higher number of moves, he doesn’t have techniques with surprise hits. That assumption of mine is the definite cause of my loss. It wasn’t such a huge change, but it brought back to life my spirit that had become lax.

“Really, for you to have such a technique…. It’s my complete defeat” (Sirius)

“Mhm, the skill doesn’t have a name yet, but it’s a relief that it got through you” (Lior)

“Huh? It doesn’t have a name?” (Sirius)

“That just now was a new technique made for you. It’s a technique made to attack a fast opponent when he’s unguarded, its focus is different from my style’s so it was troublesome to develop” (Lior)

No way, for just a single person to develop a new technique made for the sole purpose of defeating me… Moreover, for him to come up with a technique that goes against his style, this old-man is through in becoming strong, he sure is outrageous huh.

“Well, it won’t work next time, will it? Your adaptation speed is too abnormal, so I wonder if I should sublimate this technique later on.” (Lior)

As the old-man says, I’m confident I’ll be able to evade it he uses it another time. Therefore, depending on the circumstances, he might give up on this technique with no regrets. The fights between Lior and me continue to evolve day after day, I guess that will continue until either one of us becomes unable to fight. I enjoy that so there is no problem, right?

“Is your arm alright? Though you blocked it in time, the swing was serious” (Lior)

“It’s painful but it’s alright. However, it would be kind of excessive to go any further than this today” (Sirius)

I think my bone got cracked, but It will heal in a few hours if I activate my magic regeneration spell.

“It can’t be helped. And the time is past noon too, It’s late but, let’s have lunch” (Lior)

“In that case, here is a box lunch that my attendant gave me. The quantity is too big, so there should be your share in too, old man” (Sirius)

“Hohou! I’m going to enjoy that” (Lior)

The old man often snitches my lunch boxes, it turns out he’s a fan of Dee’s cooking. I looked at the old man who returned to the house while smiling like a child, and followed right after him.

“The way to hold a sword?” (Lior)

While eating lunch, I threw in the question from this morning. By the way, the lunch box’s content is a multicolored side dish, which was Dee’s first challenge, a pork-cutlet sandwich. I tasted it, and it’s delicious, a little better than mine. He truly is a chef.

“Well… I never thought that much about that. I swing it by sheer strength so… Anyway, I guess you just gotta grip it with full force to have a fix handle of it” (Lior)

Honestly, why is such an old man so strong? For the time being, I tried to teach him how to grip a sword.

“Ho? I see… this is not bad. Depending on the technique, it might be effective.” (Lior)

Perhaps having the greed to try to adopt other people’s opinions like this in order to become strong is the secret to gaining strength. If I think about it, one wouldn’t normally try to change a technique he cultivated for years, right?

“Which reminds me, my apprentice, Reus, has been interested in swordsmanship.” (Sirius)

“That’s a good thing. You and I grasped swordsmanship at around that same age too” (Lior)

“Then, you have about 50 years of experience with the sword, old-man? You’ve been well devoted to the sword up to now” (Sirius)

“I’ve been doing it for 50 years and yet I’m inferior to a 6 years old child. How about this? Wanna inherit my swordsmanship? How about it? If it’s you, you’ll surely surpass me” (Lior)

Though we’ve had several bouts, It’s the first time he said that he wants me to inherit his swordsmanship. However,

“I appreciate the feeling, but it’s too different from my way of fighting. Though I’ve seen your techniques and adopted some, after completely adopting your style of swordsmanship, I’ll probably conversely end up killing it. Sorry.” (Sirius)

“Is that so? I won’t force it. It’s not that I absolutely want an inheritor, but those techniques are a waste on me” (Lior)

“Then, do you want to take over my disciple?” (Sirius)

“Hoh, so what you said before wasn’t a joke?” (Lior)

“It depends on the will of the person himself though” (Sirius)

In the first place, my skills and fighting methods are mostly based on the scientific methods of my previous life, added to the unique techniques of my teacher, it’s almost impossible to teach to the people of this world.

Therefore, the training plan for my two disciples is to thoroughly train the foundations of their endurance and to foster the proficiency of their situation awareness and the like, I was thinking of, thereafter, raising them so that they can use the weapons and styles that individually suit them. So, Lior’s intervention is a godsend.

“I’ll do some groundwork with scholastic education and basic training for at least half a year. And then, I guess I’ll try to introduce you to him if he himself says that he wants to give it a try” (Sirius)

“If it’s from you, I’m going to receive an amazing disciple, right? Things will get fun from this point onward.” (Lior)

“Look forward to it. You don’t have a problem with exposing some of your skills?” (Sirius)

“No. I want a disciple who is able to cut a rock with an iron sword and to do a count of four [Chiyabu] slices.” (Lior)

“Don’t be absurd. Especially that last part, even for me the limit is six times, you know?” (Sirius)

“For you to be able to use it to that extent without being taught, you’re too abnormal! What were those 50 years of mine for?” (Lior)

“I don’t know!” (Sirius)

And thus, I continued the sterile argument with the old man until my injury completely healed.

However, an unexpected denouement was awaiting for me at my return.

“Ah, Greetings’, Sirius-sama “ (Reus)

When I finally reached the house, Reus was still swinging a sword. Still, he’s not forcing himself, his injuries have already completely recovered and he’s swinging the sword happily. However, next to him, I saw Dee who was making a difficult, and still expressionless, face.

“Sirius-sama, though you have a tremendous talent, this child isn’t inferior to you either.” (Dee)

“Sirius-sama-, I tried that technique where you swing the sword six times in one go, but I was only able to do it three times. Please teach me the trick to it” (Reus)

What…..? He remembered only by seeing the technique being done once, and though it was only by half, he actually succeeded? On top of that, he also has a visual acuity that perceived the number of slashes which were almost like flickers of light.

Could this child be an unthinkably talented person?

There was another additional unexpected denouement.

“Ah, hmmm.. welcome home” (Emilia)

Though Emilia’s face blushed, her eyes matched with mine and she talked to me. As expected of Elena, she seems to have taught her well.

“Hmm…. about yesterday’s matter, I was overcome with emotions and…. That is, would you say that I went too far?” (Emilia)

“You didn’t go too far. I’m delighted by your goodwill, Emilia.” (Sirius)

Though I had been confused by the sudden confession, I’ll accept it with all my being because I’ve resolved myself to it. Emilia’s face brightened delightedly at my reply.

“I’m glad. I’ll do my best for you after this, Sirius-sama. And when I’ll be an adult, I’ll do my best even in bed! Please wait for me.” (Emilia)

…… Mmh? Hold on a second. Weren’t some strange words just mixed in?

With no regard to my suspicions, Emilia faced the kitchen and got milk from Elena.

“Men like big chests… right? If I don’t work hard…” (Emilia)

“That’s the spirit. You must work hard to satisfy Sirius-sama in the future.” (Elena)

Hmm, Elena….. san? What the heck? What did you inspire her with?

At the night of that day, the three attendants and I were standing in the garden that the moon was shining upon.

The moon of this world doesn't wax and wane by the day, rather, it's a moon that is always round and visible and that only casts a thin shadow. Today is a bright full moon, it's a good a day for moonlight bathing. However, we're not standing in the garden for such a witty thing. We gathered here because we were invited to do so by Emilia.

[Everyone, I have a request. Tonight, I want you to please gather in the garden at the time when the moon shines the most.] (Emilia in the past)

Is what she said out of the blue after dinner, and though we're here, the two essential persons are nowhere to be found and seem to be doing something in the house.

"Today is a full moon. And, the time when the moon shines most….. in other words, now. What on earth are we doing?" (Noel)

"Before coming here, I heard that they wanted some wine." (Sirius)

"Wine? Then, are we here to drink? The moon is beautiful, it wouldn't be bad for everyone to enjoy alcohol at the light of the moon, right~?" (Noel)

"Sirius-sama and the pair are minors, we can't make them drink. I don't know the intentions of the two, but it might be something important because they seemed to be serious." (Elena)

"That's right, let's wait for them patiently and—— speak of the devil"

The two emerged from the entrance of the house while holding, respectively, a small wooden box and a table, and they came sprinting toward here.

"I am sorry for having kept you waiting." (Emilia)

Though the two bow down with a haggard breathing, I don't recall being particularly made to wait here. They were received by everyone with rising smiles.

“Don’t worry because we didn’t wait much. That being the case, what did you gather us for?” (Elena)

“Oh, yes. Truth it, there is something that I want you to see. Reus.” (Emilia)

“Yes, It should be good here.” (Reus)

Reus installed the table that he was carrying on the ground, and Emilia took juice and wine out of the wooden box that she was holding and put them on the table. It looked as if it was an offering to the moon.

“Everyone, first of all, thank you for gathering.” (Emilia)

“Thank you” (Reus)

Standing in front of of us, the two thank us all alike. Somehow, this “first speech” kind of feel is heartwarming.

“Allow me to explain, on the occasion of marriages and festivals, we silver-wolfkins hold a ceremony called the oath of the silver moon. It’s an important ceremony where one pledges a vow to the moon, once the vow is done, one must never break it.”

After the explanation, Reus poured apu juice in the cups that were put on the table.

“Never break it, you say? The silver-wolfkins sure are amazing.” (Noel)

“According to my father, it’s just a commodity. However, I have yet to see a person who broke that vow.” (Emilia)

“It’s a ceremony that is held for marriages, right? The silver-wolf tribe is a tribe that is said to cherish kinship, there is no one among them who would break that vow.” (Sirius)

“Indeed. As expected of you, Sirius-sama, you sure are knowledgeable” (Emilia)

“It’s just secondhand knowledge from a book. I didn’t think that I’d be able to actually see it in person.” (Sirius)

“I’ve gathered everybody to make sure that you witness our vow. Sirius-sama, could you stand here?” (Emilia)

Under Emilia’s lead, I was made to stand in front of the table that had been installed. Huh? Doesn’t it look like I’m participating in this too?

“Are you ready?” (Emilia)

“I am, sister.” (Reus)

The two people thrust their knees in front of me and approach their hands in front of their chests as if praying to a deity.

And the ceremony begins.

“O, silver moon, our mother, please fulfill this new vow that we shall recite.” (Emilia)

In the solemn atmosphere where everyone quieted down, Emilia let out a phrase that solicited the moon.

“I, Emilia Silverlion” (Emilia)

“I, Reus Silverlion” (Reus)

““I gage on the moon to followeth thou and center mine life on thou from now and until it withers”“ (Emilia & Reus)

I heard the sound of someone catching their breath in the middle of that vow.

Let me be honest, you're just idolizing me. You two are still children, you'll come across people of the opposite sex that you'll appreciate more than I in the future, you'll marry them and have kids with them. At that time, today's vow is sure to become a hindrance. Therefore, there is no need need to do this, your feelings are enough… that's what I wanted to say.

However… the words didn't come out.

The two's expressions are earnest, they look straight at me without averting their eyes at all.

Despite them being children, the two had the resolve to pledge a vow in the holy ceremony. Therefore, I have to reply to the the pair's resolution. Not as a teacher to an apprentice, but solely as a man.

"We two talked among us today and decided it. We two want to be with you forever, Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

"Though I'm useless as I'm still a child, I want to become strong someday and assist you, Sirius-sama." (Reus)

"We'll never regret this choice. Will you receive these vows?" (Emilia)

"…. I shall receive your vows." (Sirius)

The two were pleased with my words and embraced each other, and the three attendants gave a generous round of applause.

As she became embarrassed and scratched her head, Emilia handed me the cup that was placed on the table.

"The ceremony is not over, so please hold on a bit." (Emilia)

While muttering “it should actually be alcohol though”, Emilia bit her finger and put one drop of the blood that flowed out inside the cup. She was followed by Reus as well, and the blood of the two mixed with the juice.

“Please drink. It is said that… the meaning is that our blood is dedicated to you. But, if it’s gross, you don’t have to force yourself to drink……” (Emilia)

“No…. I’ll drink it. And, I will also pledge a vow. You are strong, so I pledge to the moon that I’ll never make you regret having followed me.” (Sirius)

That’s what I had decided that from the beginning, but I said it to the pair once again. Because In the current situation, what I say has more weight and is more trustworthy.

“Sirius-sama, this is our one-sided vow, you don’t have to pledge a vow yourself” (Emilia)

“That’s right. We’re doing this without permission after all” (Reus)

I drank up in a dash in defiance of the two’s behavior. And drop by drop, the juice, with the blood mixed in, spread through every part of my body.

“Though it’s normal apu-juice, I think that you two’s feelings were transmitted with it. Well, is it over with this?”

Though the two were taken aback, they immediately rose big smiles and embraced all of it.

“Yes. My best regards in the future” (Emilia)

“I’ll also work hard for you, Sirius-sama!” (Reus)

The three attendants approached our smiling selves and each of them offered their congratulations.

“Congratulations you two. I was very honored to become a witness of the holy ceremony.” (Elena)

“To sum up, from today, you are attendants just like us. Let’s work hard together in the future. “ (Noel)

“If you’re ever troubled with anything, come to inquire me about it.” (Dee)

““Thank you.”“ (Reus & Emilia)

The two were smiling happily at the formality of Emilia and company. With this, their bonds will deepen more and more, it’s excellent.

Which reminds me, aside from the juice, wine was prepared too, right?

“Say, Emilia. Is this wine a service to treat everyone?” (Sirius)

“That’s right. Though we originally planned to prepare a lot of meals and make this a feast, that’s impossible for us so the best we could do was to bring alcohol.” (Emilia)

“Though you said your prepared it for us, It’s standoffish, isn’t it?” (Noel)

“I’ll prepare as many meals as you want for you” (Dee)

“Sorry, but this is our ceremony so we’d like to be taken care of solely by ourselves.” (Emilia)

“Ah-Huh? Is that how it is? You shouldn’t force things like that though, right~?” (Noel)

“Here, stop talking and take it.” (Elena)

While Noel and Emilia were conversing, Elena moved promptly, poured wine into several cups, and handed cups to each of us. Of course, we children properly had juice.

“Then, shall we give a toast in celebration? The one who’ll lead the toast will be… Noel, I’ll leave it to you.” (Elena)

“Me? Alright~! I wonder what I should say~” (Noel)

“Please put your strangeness aside and do it normally.” (Sirius)

“huuuh~?! It can’t be helped, I’ll do the usual. So…..” (Noel)

We gather around the table, and we slightly raise our cups in unison with Noel’s voice.

“In commemoration of Emilia’s and Reus’ oath, and of the increase of Sirius-sama’s attendants… cheers~!” (Noel)

“““““Cheers!””””” (Everyone)

Under the moonlight, the sound of the clashing cups echoed in the environs.

レウス Reus
シリウス Sirius
エミリア Emilia
ノエル Noel
エリナ Erina
シリウスたちの穏やかな日々——

Chapter 18
Let's go on a picnic
– Outing part –

"Haah!" (Emilia)

Avoiding a swinging down weapon, Emilia pierces her knife in an opponent's throat. She then instantly extracts the pierced knife, throws it, and it penetrates the throat of an opponent that has been approaching her back. And though an opponent approached from her side at that opportunity.

" [Air slash] " (Emilia)

Emilia shoots a wind blade, as the blast of wind blows, the opponent's head is sliced and falls off. She confirms that there are no more opponents approaching her, and she promptly collects the stuck knife.

"Yaaah!" (Reus)

Reus swung down a sword that easily cut the stick that his opponent defended with, and he cut that very opponent right in half without hesitation. At that blow, one opponent came to a halt trembling in fear and was cut up with a sideway sweep, and another one received a knee strike and sank down.

"Eat this!" (Reus)

Two of them get attacked by [Chiyabu]. And five slashing attacks tear them to shreds before they get to raise their voices.

As for me… I was observing the pair, siting on a nearby rock.

I'm not skipping out, it's just that this is the pair's training. I intend to back them up if something happens, but there doesn't seem to be any problem.

One year has passed since the oath of the silver moon.

Whether I'm bound to the oath or not, it doesn't change how I associate with the two, if there is a change to speak of, it's that the training has been getting more intense than before.

Emilia and Reus grew up healthily by training earnestly, and although they're children, they have matured into splendid soldiers despite being children.

As for their abilities, as demonstrated, a regular goblin isn't a match for them anymore. Well, I'm conscious that goblins are weak but it's irrelevant given that today was a group fight, they were at least 30, however, they were cleared away like withered branches and mowed down in the blink of an eye, the sight of them was actually pitiable.

Let me briefly explain the current status of the pair.

Emilia's attribute is the wind attribute and her main weapon is usually a knife, so her tactic is to cut up her opponents with long-distance wind magic. Of course, I'm making her learn to cast without chanting.

She gets approached by a lot of goblins aiming for her, so she skillfully moves around to protect her rear, and she stabs their weak points with a knife to reliably reduce their number. When goblins approach her, she flings them away with the Aikido I initiated her with, and when they get away from her, she chops them up with wind magic. Even from the point of view of her teacher, me, the way she knocks them down brilliantly and fast is a magnificent sight.

Reus' attribute is the fire attribute, but he doesn't need to use much magic since he defeats goblins with pure sword art.

His style is Lior's mighty piercing sword style, I made the pair meet him when I deemed the time right and they were pleased with him, so, so for the past half-year, I've been daily

taking them with me to train with him. If I were to assess it, his current skill is at the point where he could cut a goblin right in half with an ordinary iron sword. However, I heard from Lior that that's at the level of a beginner. Just how deep does the mighty piercing sword style go?

As I pondered absentmindedly, the last goblin fell under a slash from Reus. He has a few spurts of blood on him, but he has no injuries, it's clearly a perfect victory.

Although t he two are indeed very dignified and reliable when they fight….

"Sirius-sama—!" (Emilia)

"Big Brother—!" (Reus)

Shaking their tails, their two figures came running here with a big smile, looking like nothing but pets.

"How was that? I have no injuries and I was able to defeat them without being showered with spurts of blood. Reus does have some on him though." (Emilia)

"You used too much spells, big sister. You're always being told by big brother that you rely too much on magic, and I, defeated all of them without using spells. Amazing, right?" (Reus)

They start arguing in front of me, but they seem like they just want to be praised so I pat their heads.

""Hehehe"" (Emilia & Reus)

Though the pleased expressions they have when they get patted haven't changed, considerable differences have started appearing on the two's appearances compared to a year ago.

Emilia not only grew taller, but she looks more adult-like too, as for her silver hair that was up to her shoulders, it grew up to her hips which made her charm as a woman start coming

out. For some reason, what grew the most is her chest. It has started to bulge somewhat, her body seems to have answered to her obstinacy as she wished for it to grow. I can guess the reason, but I dare not ask. Even if it's from her motivation and her goodwill..... It's too fast for an eight years old, right?

But I digress, at any rate, she became lovely. She'll blossom into a beautiful woman in the future.

Reus' whole body became bigger, and his mind became a lot more stable. He reached a point where he calls himself "ore" instead of "boku" *(TLN: They both mean "I" or "me", but "ore" is confident and manly while "boku" is kinda shy and childish, notice that Sirius always called himself "Ore")*, and he acts less upon his emotions. And after the oath of the silver moon, he started calling me big brother. I have pointed out that it's strange not to call one's master with "sama", but it seems that big brother is a superlative appellation for him, so he's allowed to call me that except in public. Unfortunately, he's inexperienced with honorifics, even if I point it out, he'll soon forget it, so I'll leave this matter as is until he becomes a little more grown up.

As for me, well, to put it bluntly, I kind of grew taller. Though it's a regular growth, it appears that I'll be overtaken soon by Reus whose abnormal height growth continues, I believe he'll surely surpass me after half a year. Whatever, I have evolved more on the inside than on the outside. My new spells increased, I came to be able to use attributed magic though I need preparations before doing it, and my disciples are growing up without a problem, everything is going smoothly.

"Is this the end for today?" (Emilia)

"That's right, though it's a little early, today's training is done. Let us return to lunch." (Sirius)

"I wonder what big bro Dee made today" (Reus)

I would get a little money if I were to cut out the Goblins' horns and take them to the institution called the adventurer guild, but the price per unit is low and I can't register to

the guild because of the age limitation so I leave the defeated goblins alone. Some wild monsters will probably deal with them later on.

Reus simplemindedly walks at the front, I follow while watching over him, and Emilia comes after, close behind. As of lately, this is our standing positions, and our formation.

There is one year left before we get driven out of the house and go to school.

Though we're growing up well, I keep thinking daily about whether there is something left to be done.

Leaving behind Reus in the garden to tend to his sword and wash his clothes that were dyed with spurts of blood, we entered the house.

"Welcome back, Sirius-sama" (Elena)

"I'm home, Elena. Oh, it's alright, sit down." (Sirius)

Elena tried to stand up from the sofa to greet me, but I immediately stopped her.

"I humbly apologize. Leaving that aside, I hope the day went well." (Elena)

"Those two were excellent so yeah. How is your condition today?" (Sirius)

"Well, there are no issues though I am a little sluggish." (Elena)

Elena's physical condition has been crumbling for the past half year. Before, she used to come to meet us at the entranceway upon sensing our return, but lately, her sitting time is longer and even walking to the door makes her countenance seem painful. Therefore she is prohibited from greeting us at the door, and I persuaded her and made her promise to reduce her attendant work to just a minimum and for no beyond half a day.

"Sirius-sama, what's your schedule for this daytime?" (Elena)

"I plan to take Reus and go to Lior's place. Emilia is free, so, maybe she should study?" (Sirius)

“Yes, I’ll be borrowing her then. Emilia, see you after lunch.” (Elena)

“Understood. Well, Sirius-sama, I’ll go change my clothes.” (Emilia)

Elena’s gentle eyes followed the back figure of Emilia, who returned to her room to change her adventurer clothes to maid clothes.

“That girl’s growth sure is fast. I fixed her maid clothes just a few days ago, and they already seem like they’ve become small.” (Elena)

“I know, right? Honestly, I believe that she’ll grow up to be charming. Rather than that, fixing those clothes got to be hard on you, right?” (Sirius)

“No, it makes me happy. Because whenever I do it, I can get a real feel of how much she’s growing up. Besides, It’s a task I can do while sitting, so it’s one of my few enjoyments.” (Elena)

At that, her eyes appealed “of course, you are included in those!” to me, which I responded to with a laugh.

Dressed in maid clothes handmade by Elena, Emilia bowed lovelily towards me.

“Welcome home, Sirius-sama. Please allow me to look after your luggage.” (Emilia)

I get her to remove the weapon belt that I put on. Though I could do it myself, it seems that this is also a part of her training as an attendant so I let her do it.

When compared to Reus, Emilia isn’t good at fighting. She’s going to be my attendant, so she has been receiving Elena’s attendant teachings in interval with her combat practice. Practicing intensively is mentally exhausting, adding attendant training to that is putting too many irons in the fire, however, she keeps on doing it without uttering an objection or a complaint. That ardor and that way of thinking are really amazing.

“…. How was it?” (Emilia)

“It was flawless. You sure have grown up” (Elena)

“Indeed, your removal of the weapons was smooth, and your bow was perfect too.” (Sirius)

“Woah! thank you very much~” (Emilia)

Though when praised, her true nature comes out, she’s young so it can’t be helped.

“It seems like you have as much talent as Noel, doesn’t it? Well, maybe that’s kind of an understatement” (Elena)

At Elena’s words, a wooden tray fell down with a clatter from behind. Looking in the back, there was Noel who had prepared our meals, she was solidified with eyes wide open, as if something unbelievable was just said.

Silence governs the living room. And, as I saw the tray tumbling and thought that the tablewares would be alright if I were to set them back up afterwards…

“I-it’s alright, big sister. I’m only good with Sirius-sama; with other people, I become awfully no good. You can deal with anyone so I lose to you.” (Emilia)

“A-Ahahaha…. Yes, that’s right. This big sister isn’t losing. This hardworking self of mine is no inferior!” (Noel)

It sure is sad, being comforted by a younger child who’s almost 10, that is.

“It would be so good if this frivolous person wasn’t here but…” (Elena)

Elena’s mutter reached no one but me.

The time is after lunch, the location is Lior’s place.

I had entrusted Reus to Lior, and I was practicing magic on a slightly remote hillock.

“Woooh!’ (Lior)

“Dammiiit!” (Reus)

The voices of the two fighting fellows are reverberating in the distance while I am sniping with my gun magic, aiming at a target far ahead.

In my previous life, I used to often resort to sniping in order to assassinate some specific enemies. Though my maximum shooting distance at the time was of 2000 meters, it's now twice-fold at 4000 meters, and that is so even if I aim at the target in a shoddy way. I, naturally, picture the gun as a sniper rifle, I aim by standing on one knee and…. it's a hit, although it doesn't go right in the middle. I'd ordinarily be certain to fail a hit like that, but this is a world with magic.

"Hahahahaah! What's the matter, kiddo?!" (Lior)

"Wait! That's going way too far!" (Reus)

The power and the shooting distance of the magically fired rifle is exceptionally higher, and I'm substituting the sight, which is used to look at a far away distance, with a magic tool I made by hand. Yes, even I came to be able to make magic tools, as long as they're simple.

What I do is that I draw a water magic formation in the middle of a hollow cylindrical timber, and I make two lens of transparent water to build a mechanism similar to that of a telescope. Since there is no telescope in this world, this is my personal thing, but It seems that I'll be able to learn various magic formations if I go to school, I'm looking forward to it.

Having kept on shooting several times, I finally managed to shoot right in the middle. Let us aim a little deeper next.

"You endured it up to here? Then, next is this!" (Lior)

"B-big Brother, heeeeelp-!" (Reus)

Normally, when fired bullets are subjected to air resistance, they decelerate and deviate, however, mana bullets are mostly unaffected by air resistance so they're hard to decelerate or deviate. I seriously believe that magic is omnipotent. Oh good, it hit.

“Hahahahhahahaa!” (Lior)

“Waaaaaaaaaah!” (Reus)

Reus seems to have been done in, so maybe I should wrap this up.

“Bi… Big brother…” (Reus)

“Oh, it’s you? This fellow here can finally bear 30% of myself” (Lior)

Taking a look at the two after returning to where they were, Reus was beaten up and collapsed, and the old-man was laughing loudly. I pat the Reus’ teary eyed head that reaches out to me, I pick up the wooden sword that he dropped, and I confront the old-man.

“There there, you held on really well, Reus. From here on, I’ll be raking this childish old-man over the coals, alright?” (Sirius)

“Big Brother….” (Reus)

“Ugh, childish? How rude. I’m hardening my heart for the sake of training, you know?” (Lior)

“Oh shut up. You don’t get to say that while smiling so hard!” (Sirius)

“But, It’s so fun, I can’t help it!” (Lior)

“Get serious!” (Sirius)

From the get-go, I charged at the old-man with [Boost] at full throttle.

As for the outcome… I attacked in a different way than usual and I overwhelmed him. And yet, the old-man was laughing satisfiedly.

And so, the next day, looking around at the whole crew that lined up for breakfast, I said.

“Let’s go on a picnic.” (Sirius)

Although the attendants were silently exchanging glances between them, Noel raised her hand on their behalf.

“May I ask a question?” (Noel)

“Yeah, go ahead.” (Sirius)

“What is a piknik?” (Noel)

Huh? Is it like that? Looking at everyone, they all seemed to be thinking the same and seeking for an explanation. I made a blunder, a lot of words resembled closely those of my previous life so I thought this one would flow.

“We’ll all be going out to have lunch and relax. In other words, let’s go have fun” (Sirius)

“““Agreed!””“ (Reus & Emilia & guess who)

The house’s children (With a certain cat-eared person mixed in) wholeheartedly approve it. It seems that Dee is already thinking about the lunch’s menu, however, Elena alone shook her head deplorably.

“I deeply apologize. My endurance won’t be able to keep up, so I’ll be looking after the house. Have a nice day, everyone” (Elena)

“No way, we can’t go and leave only Elena-san” (Emilia)

“It’ll be no fun without Elena-san” (Reus)

“You guys…… I also want to go, but I’ll become a burden if my stamina runs out.” (Elena)

“It’s alright, I prepared this thing.” (Sirius)

I took out a wooden chair made to be carried on the back. If Elena sits on this and Dee or I shoulder it, there’ll be no need for her to walk.

“I couldn’t possibly refuse something like this at this point, right?” (Elena)

“Then, with everyone’s approval, let us go on a picnic.” (Sirius)

“Yaaay, picnic!” (Reus)

“Hey, don’t get too carried away. However, I’m looking forward to it too.” (Sirius)

Since they had been doing nothing but training everyday, it was the two’s first time genuinely going to play so they were more pleased than expected. Their childish innocent smiles pierce right into my heart, it hurts…… from now on, I’ll increase their playtime a little.

“Then, here are the roles for each of you in the preparations. Dee and Noel will prepare lunch boxes, Emilia and Reus will prepare a carpet for everyone to sit on. As for Elena, she’ll be on standby. Well then, dismissed!” (Sirius)

“““““Understood!””””” (Everyone)

All of them scattered to their posts for the preparations, and I, who stayed, made final adjustments to the chair. Meanwhile, the other person remaining, Elena, asked me a question.

“Sirius-sama, why hold such a meeting so abruptly? We only have a single year left, right?” (Elena)

“That’s precisely why. Don’t you want to make fun memories with everyone?” (Sirius)

As she says, there is little time left for us, we have hardly any time for leisure. However, myself aside, what will become of the attendants after one year is unclear. Therefore, I want to leave behind one or two happy memories. It’s this train of thought that brought about the picnic.

“Let us leave the difficult talk aside and let’s have a lot of fun today” (Sirius)

“….You’re right. Although I am being a bother, please take care of moving me” (Elena)

“Yeah, you can count on me.” (Sirius)

I practiced carrying Elena several times for adjustments, and once I was able to confirm there were no problems, the preparations ended and we left without delay.

The place we’re heading to is within the mountain range behind the house, at a walking distance of about 30 minutes. I just stumbled upon it once while flying in the sky, but it was a spread out open field with no monsters to be found, just the right place to relax.

Reus, whose perception is sharp, takes the lead, I follow him while shouldering Elena, and Noel, Emilia, and Dee are at the rear. If there are dangerous monsters to speak of in this area, it’s the goblins, but I cleared a herd of them the other day, so the chances of encountering them should be quite low, shouldn’t they? Still, I carry a weapon for caution’s sake, and we three men face our destination vigilantly.

“Sirius-sama, aren’t I heavy?” (Elena)

“I’m alright, even if I were to run, I’d have no problems. Rather than that, are there any changes to your physical condition, Elena?” (Sirius)

“I have no problems either. It’s quite strange, I hardly feel any load on my body even tough I’m being moved up and down.” (Elena)

“It’s because of my way of walking. This is also a form of training.” (Sirius)

“If it’s training, then I’ll do it too!” (Reus)

“You’re the vanguard so your role is to clear up the path. Listen, if you keep persevering, Elena-san’s burden will decrease. So work hard and cut through with your sword.” (Sirius)

“Oh, that’s right! Alright, leave it to me!” (Reus)

This child, he’s actually quite an airhead. Looking at his retreating figure cutting up obstructive bushes and branches while swinging a sword, I felt anxious about his future.

“Woooah~….” (Emilia)

“Wow~..... It’s amazing~” (Noel)

The dense trees become interrupted by a flower garden in full bloom that spreads out before our eyes. Though the place was rugged as if the forest had been hollowed out with a spoon, I checked with [Search] for the presence of monsters and I couldn’t find any, which was a relief. Taking along the attendants who were trembling from excitement, I spread a carpet at the base of the only tree there, in the middle of the flower garden.

“The flower bed is great, but why is this tree the only one here?” (Noel)

“It might be the owner of this place. Look, It’s slightly bigger than the other trees.” (Elena)

“That’s really the case huh. For now, shall we ask it if we can borrow its roots?” (Noel)

“I’ll do it too.” (Reus)

Noel and Reus clasped their hands together in worship toward the tree. Perhaps this tree monopolizes the nourishment in the outskirts so the other trees stopped growing, I guess? And then, the number of trees decreased, and the sunlight shone on the ground, providing the flowers with a little nourishment that allowed them to bloom in profusion... or something like that.

“Well, it’s good that we arrived, but it’s still a little early for lunch, isn’t it?” (Noel)

“Then, shall we play for a short while? I actually brought a little tool.” (Sirius)

““Let’s play!”“ (Emilia & Reus)

With their ears and tails rising, the two turned expectant looks toward me. That made me remember the words “Want to go for a walk?” that one would tell a dog.

I took out an overally light disk-shaped object with thin and curved edges, that is, a Frisbee. Since plastic doesn’t exist, I made it by shaving some light and sturdy wood.

“What is that? Should I strike it with my sword?” (Reus)

“Shall I shoot it with magic?” (Emilia)

“Hey hey, don’t go thinking about breaking it. This is a tool called a Frisbee, it’s an object you throw like this.” (Sirius)

I try to throw it lightly. It’s handmade so it’s ill-balanced and it meanders a little, but all in all, the movement is close to the real thing. Oh, damn, I carelessly went and threw it in a direction where nobody was.

“Yah~!” (Noel)

However, Noel caught it in the air and passed it to me. She was setting up the luggage in the back just now, when did she come?

“What was that? I reacted unintentionally” (Noel)

With a wondering look, she goes back to her former position. Cats do react to moving objects, it seems that just because she has the ears of cats, their instincts was also mixed in her.

Looking at the pair, they’re observing the Frisbee with sparkling eyes. After that, we’d normally just do passes back and forth, however, maybe I’ll try messing around a little.

“Here, catch it!” (Sirius)

“Wait-!” (Reus)

“Yaaah~!” (Emilia)

I threw it slightly harder, and the pair started joyfully chasing after it. You’d expect catching it at this speed to be impossible, but, by making the best use of their trained legs, the two succeeded in overtaking it, and Emilia caught it.

“Ooh, you caught it. Alright, then, throw it ba——” (Sirius)

“Sirius-samaaa!” (Emilia)

Before I got the chance to tell them to throw the Frisbee back, the two came back running and gave it to me.

“Big Brother, hurry and throw it! This time I’ll get it!” (Reus)

“I’m not going to lose either! Sirius-sama, please throw it again!” (Emilia)

They were being very noisy, so I threw it with even more strength this time. With this speed, even a trained veteran dog would have a hard time, but sorry for the dog, these two are the pupils that I thoroughly trained. Responding with a considerable dash, Reus pulled off an air-catch. And then, in the blink of an eye, the two came back together.

“Big Brother! Again, again!” (Reus)

“Next time it will be me! Sirius-sama, throw it please!” (Emilia)

Huh? …It’s odd, isn’t it? Isn’t Frisbee played by passing it to each-other? I just made you fetch it as a joke and yet you’re enjoying this so much, are you, like, dogs?! No…. they really are dogs.

“Oh, oooh….” (Noel)

And then, I noticed the dangerous gaze of Noel who was standing close by. Those were the eyes of a cat on the verge of pouncing on its prey, which is why I lightly threw the Frisbee nearby as an experiment, and she jumped right at it.

I see, so she wasn’t able to win over her instincts.

“Wait, Sirius-sama, what on earth−− Ahh, not again! Yaaaah!”

Beastkins are interesting. Their physical abilities are higher than that of we humans, and yet many of them are amiable people, makes one wonder why they are discriminated against, huh. *(TLN: He meant that, they are stronger but they don't take advantage of that, or act arrogant, like the elves)*

"Doing it only with big sis Noel is unfair! It's my turn now!" (Reus)

"Please throw it to us. I do admire big sister's lightness, but we are stronger than her." (Emilia)

"What's that? If you're going to go as far as saying that, then I'll stop holding back. Behold this big sister's true strength!" (Noel)

Since the noisiness increased even more, I earnestly threw the Frisbee. It's fun so I don't really mind but…

"You know, I've been thinking and, there is no real need for me to throw it, right? You guys can simply throw it in turns, can't you?" (Sirius)

""""No~!"""" (Reus & Emilia & Noel)

"But why?" (Sirius)

Eventually, it reached a point where a veteran dog of my previous life would be at an impasse. I mean, it's because they're using [Boost] which I taught them, but still, aren't they taking the game too seriously?

"Everyone, let's have lunch now, shall we?" (Elena)

""""Yes~!"""" (Emilia & Reus & Noel)

The beastkins who gathered at Elena's call made me think of kindergärtners who went on an excursion with their teacher. We sit down in a circle around the lunch box that Dee set up while chuckling to himself. We said "itadakimasu" in a chorus, and I was handed a

sandwich and a drink from Emilia. The attendants can't eat before me, the master, so, even though I think it's a little troublesome, I eat the first mouthful.

"Mhm, it's tasty. Though it's a little too seasoned, this much isn't bad." (Sirius)

"Really!?" (Emilia)

Emilia is pleasedly wagging her tail. Hmm, it's a quite clumsy work for something made by Dee, could it be that…

"Did you make this, Emilia?" (Sirius)

"Yes, I did!" (Emilia)

"I see, I think you did well for a first time. Therefore, you should eat, instead of just looking at me." (Sirius)

"Understood. Haah~…. what a relief~" (Emilia)

"That's good" (Elena)

"You really did your best, Emi-chan" (Noel)

Having been praised by the two who had watched over her when she was cooking, she happily bit into her pork-cutlet sandwich. Though there was an accident where Reus clogged his throat by earnestly wolfing down his food, the meal proceeded peacefully.

After lunch, the Frisbee immediately restarted, or so I expected, but the time flew by really quietly in the flower garden. This was because the three main causes of the commotion were having naps side by side under the shade of a tree. Of course they'd become drowsy after filling their stomachs in such high spirit. Since Dee is sitting near and standing guard, even if monsters approach, there won't be any problems, right?

《師匠》と《弟子たち》――

Thus, I lied down and I got a lap pillow from Elena, like a young woman would from her boyfriend.

“Hehe……” (Elena)

“It’s fun, right?” (Sirius)

She stroked my hair with a face filled with affection. It’s the same face that she has been showing me all the time since I awoke in this world, and even though her wrinkles multiplied over the years, this expression hasn’t changed.

“Yes, It’s very fun. You’ve become all grown up, and our family is getting bigger too so I’m very happy.” (Elena)

“Happy… huh. You’re right, I want to make more fun memories like today’s.” (Sirius)

As I was warmly wrapped up in the kindness of the cheerful Elena, I, too, became sleepy.

“If it’s you, you’ll be able to make as many happy memories as you like. I am fine, so please go ahead and take a rest.” (Elena)

“Mhm… then don’t mind if I do” (Sirius)

She hummed the lullaby that she had sung countless times before. And with that pleasant rhythm, my consciousness slowly faded.

“……-sama…… Sirius-sama!” (Emilia)

Looking in the direction of the call that awakened my consciousness, there was Emilia and Reus.

“hmm… How long did I sleep?” (Sirius)

“About an hour or so” (Elena)

“I see. So, what’s the matter you two?” (Sirius)

I got up while thanking Elena, and I assessed the state of the two as they were easing their stiffened stiffened muscles. They went as far as waking me up, so I wondered what went wrong, but they aren't panicking much.

"When we got up a little while ago, we went for a walk and we found something strange on the way. When Reus saw it, he said that it was suspicious." (Emilia)

"Yeah, I got an odd feeling from it but I don't know what it was." (Reus)

"Therefore, we asked big sister and Dee to stand watch and we came to consult you, Sirius-sama." (Emilia)

Wow, they left behind some people to watch over the target, and they were able to pull out a perfect Horenso, excellent.

By the way, Horenso is an acronym that takes the first syllables of the Chinese words *hokoku*, *renraku* and *sodan*, which mean *report*, *inform* and *consult*. It's indispensable for the efficient advance of an enterprise and of various activities, a disciple of mine from my previous life didn't know this so I explained it to him, although I did it with a sigh. *(TLN: Horenso is kinda common sense in Japan, everyone knows about that there, so here, Sirius is justifying himself as to why he explained the meaning of the word, given that there was no real need to do so since the meaning is obvious in Japan)*

I was pulled by the two and guided to that place…. and, there was something strange there indeed.

"… A jewel?" (Sirius)

A jewel giving off a golden gleam was protruding about two fist-lengths out of the ground. I feel like I might unintentionally reach my hand to it because it's a jewel, but It remains suspicious so I'm hesitating.

"It's so beautiful. But Reu-kun says not to touch it." (Noel)

"Reus' intuition is sharp at time like these… However, If this is…." (Sirius)

“Are we going to take it?” (Noel)

“Though It’s excessively suspicious, let’s challenge it. I’ll do it myself so step back everyone.” (Sirius)

We tidy up the luggage just in case, and with everyone having backed away to a safe position, I coil [String] around the jewel and try to pull it lightly, but it remains unaffected and doesn’t move at all.

“It’s not moving. Is it stuck on something?” (Sirius)

The moment I put more power into it, the soil surrounding the jewel up-heaved and an enormous object appeared with a cloud of dust.

“That’s… a Jewel-Turtle” (Dee)

It was a five-meters tall tortoise. The jewel that I was looking at before was shining on top of its carapace, and its whole body was covered in rocks, it looked very tough. Moreover, six tentacles were extending from its shell and wriggling in a threatening manner towards here.

“You know what it is, Dee?” (Sirius)

“Yes, it’s a very tough monster, but it’s famous for bing a monster that can make one earn a lot of money.” (Dee)

“Really?! Then, let’s beat it!” (Noel)

“It’s strong and very ferocious though. Anyone other than a top-tier wizard or a high grade adventurer would lose against it.” (Dee)

With Dee’s explanation, I recalled Informations from a book.

Jewel Turtle:

It’s a tortoise monster covered in rocks from heads to toe with a body harder than steel.

For that reason, it's very slow and easy to escape from, but if one were to fight it, they'd have to be somewhat prepared to do so. It's strong, so superficial attacks have no effect on it, and if someone were to approach it unskillfully, that person would get caught and strangled by the tentacles that stretch out of its carapace.

But the jewel that grows on its back can be fetched at a high price, upon making such a discovery, gaining a thousand gold in one stroke would be no dream. However, there is no end to the adventurers who had the tables turned on them and lost their lives to this monster because of their lack of ability.

"If we're going to run away, we should leave immediately." (Dee)

It seems that, from the point of view of Dee who has a lot of battle experience, this isn't an opponent we can match. Shifting my attention to the surroundings, I simulated the combat in my head and I made a decision.

"No, we'll manage. You two, prepare for battle." (Sirius)

""Yes!"" (Emilia & Reus)

At my command, Emilia lined up to the side, and stepping forward, Reus prepared his sword in an overhead position.

The Jewel-Turtle approaches while sinking the ground with each of its steps. Despite it being slow, the voices of Elena and Noel were quivering from the force engendered by the tortoise's gigantic body.

"Si-Sirius-sama!? A-are you really going to fight?" (Noel)

"Please don't! You don't have to force yourself to fight, isn't it enough if we escape?!" (Elena)

"It's alright, we can win. Dee, I'm entrusting both of them to you." (Sirius)

"…. Understood. I'll be praying for your victory." (Dee)

“Dee-san?!” (Noel)

I guess Noel thought that Dee, who’s an experienced person, would never approve of this. She was shocked, but Dee raised the coins of his mouth while hitting her head in an attempt to pat her.

“Sirius-sama is much stronger than I. And he knows himself. Being such a person, if he said that he can win, then there is no problem.” (Dee)

“That’s….. right. He has always been that kind of over the top character, hasn’t he? Alright, Sirius-sama, Emi-chan, Reu-kun, do your best!” (Noel)

“Sirius-sama……” (Elena)

To be frank, I wanted to send the three back home, but even if I had told them to do it, they probably wouldn’t have listened. In any case, I asked them to fall back to a safe position, and we confronted the Jewel-Turtle.

“Let the battle begin!” (Sirius)

Chapter 19

Let's go on a picnic

– Money making part –

The Jewel Turtle is composed of rocks and unique ores, in simple terms, I guess it's a living and moving golem.

Anyway, though its whole body is that of a sturdy monster, according to my data, it has a weak point, its heart, which is below its stomach. That place is almost bare, and has a thin defense so it's even possible to beat the turtle with a knife by performing well, however, that would mean turning that huge body over to its abdomen, and what's more, the unique ores it's composed of are very heavy, so it's easily around four tons… that's like two truckloads.

Even if one hypothetically were to turn it over, its weak point or heart, is small and hard to see, and tentacles would expand from the Jewel Turtle's carapace to protect that weak point while raising back the monster's large body. Although it only has soft tentacles in its body, I heard that they are endless, because even if they're cut, they regenerate.

Other adventurers don't know how to fight it, but I think I can turn it upside down with my strategy.

"Reus, don't attack it and focus on defense. When an opportunity comes, don't miss it." (Sirius)

"I understand, big brother!" (Reus)

Though in his stead, Lior would probably be able to cut it right in half, it's still impossible for Reus. Besides, he has a mass-produced iron sword, It would certainly break upon striking such a sturdy monster. Therefore, I get him to concentrate on a single blow that he'll aim at the tortoise's weak point.

“Emilia, follow my instructions while using your magic. First of all, let’s make it focus on us.” (Sirius)

“Understood.” (Emilia)

We have to avoid close-hand combat as much as possible, first, we’ll take some distance to get out of its tentacles reach and we’ll attack with long-range attacks. So that it doesn’t target the attendants, we’ll stick its line of sight toward here and we’ll lure it to another location.

“Shoot its face!” (Sirius)

“Yes! [Air ball] “ (Emilia)

Emilia condensed some air to make a spell which fires a volleyball-sized sphere, it has the power to crush a rock when it’s made with serious efforts, but this time, she launched it in a held-back way. This monster is harder than a rock, so the shot had the sole purpose of attracting its attention here.

The wind ball hits the monster’s face directly, making the sound of an impact, and the turtle turns its inhuman eyes this way.

“Next, cut a single one of its tentacles!” (Sirius)

“ [Air slash] “ (Emilia) *(Kazakiri)*

The fired blade of air sliced off a tentacle which then dropped to the ground while spurting bodily fluids from the cut section. Though I intended to shoot it with my gun magic at worst, I knew that Emilia’s magic could slice it. I don’t know if this creature has a sense of pain, but it raised a nonsensical cry, it seemed like it had completely recognized us as its enemies. As I put myself on guard for whatever was coming, the tortoise suddenly bit the ground in front of it by stretching out its neck, and moving its mouth, it started chewing the soil.

“A long-ranged attack?! Everyone, keep its line of fire away from Elena and the others!” (Sirius)

We ran to the direction opposite to Elena & co, the monster opened its mouth wide toward the place where we took position, and it launched the soil which became a huge lump. But it’s not just soil, it’s soil that has been hardened by its strong jaws, at this point, it’s already a cannonball. For the time being, I’ll call it an earth cannonball.

“Jump!” (Sirius)

At my signal, the whole crew activates [Boost] and jumps up. The earth cannonball passed under our feet thundering, and looking behind as we landed, there was the tragic scene of trees being scythed in a straight line. This is the type of attack that can’t be defended against.

“W-wow! I want to cut something like that someday” (Reus)

“What in the world are you saying? Leaving that aside, Sirius-sama, what should we do?” (Emilia)

“Our strategy is the same. From now, I’ll be taking some distance, and you two will have to induce this fellow and bring him to me. If you go too far, he’ll use the attack from just now, so you have to maintain a position in which the tentacles can almost reach you. Think you can do it?” (Sirius)

“Please leave it to me!” (Emilia)

“I can do it! Big sister can cut the tentacles with her wind, so I can cut them too. I’ll show you I can do it“ (Reus)

With the reassuring words of the two, I parted from the monster and went to an uphill location. Although the slope is unsatisfactory, being at an angle of roughly 20 degrees, I guess it’s adequate since there is a possibility that the tortoise woudn’t be able to come up if the hill were too inclined. I used [String] to draw a circle on the ground, and I carved the pattern of a magic formation using a liquid I took out.

When making a magic formation, drawing and carving isn't enough. For the formation to take effect, it needs to be drawn with [Holy magic water], which is a mixture of a fluid extracted from a flower named [Moonlight flower] and of a grinded special ore that contains mana. Additionally, the pattern needs to be drawn delicately, it requires a lot of time and labor to make. However, it's easy to draw a pattern for beginner magic in order to do things such as setting off a small fire or raising a gentle breeze, and what I'm carving is an earth spell of the beginner level.

I finished the engraving after less than a minute, I poured my mana inside to activate it, and a small hole appeared on the ground as I extended both of my hands.

I do a little more work and the preparations are complete.

Looking at the siblings, they were gradually approaching toward here. The tentacles take just a few minutes to regenerate and make their assault, but the siblings either cut them or avoid them while properly continuing to run, walking slowly but surely, they successfully follow the instructions.

"That's the way! Lure it a little more then come to my position!" (Sirius)

"Yes!" (Emilia)

"Eeeh?! Wait, big sister!" (Reus)

"Aaah, what are you doing?!" (Sirius)

Maybe because she got impatient, Emilia came here almost instantly, and having followed her, Reus left his position. This is bad, at this distance, the earth cannonball will come.

"You're coming too fast! Damn, it's too late!" (Sirius)

"Eeeeh… Aaah!" (Emilia)

When Emilia noticed and turned around, the monster had already bitten the ground and prepared itself. If he fires toward here and wreaks havoc on the area, the strategy will be ruined, though it's a sink or swim, maybe I should try to intercept it.

"I-I deeply apologize! I…" (Emilia)

"I drifted away too far too, big sister isn't the only one to blame!" (Reus)

"Leave the apologies for later! I'll intercept it, but prepare to dodge in case I fail!" (Sirius)

""Y-yes!"" (Emilia & Reus)

Having scolded the apologetic duo, I focus my palm in the direction of the monster's mouth. I aim for the right moment and…. an earth cannonball peeps out of the creature's open mouth, to which I simultaneously fire a spell.

" [Launcher] " (Sirius)

Though the magic bullet I shoot is similar to [Magnum], the size and the impact of the bullet are different. Upon impact, the baseball sized bullet blows up on a vast range and can generate a very powerful shock wave. You can think of it as a hand-grenade fired by a grenade-launcher.

And so, just before the earth cannonball gets fired, the [Launcher] spell hits it and explodes. No matter how hard the monster chewed it to strengthen it, the ball's material was still a bunch of soil, so, from the high impact, it burst, it scattered and only a little soil remained in the monster's mouth.

"As expected of Sirius-sama!" (Emilia)

"Big bro is awesome!" (Reus)

"It's not over yet. Prepare for what comes next!" (Sirius)

Maybe in an attempt to put up with the shock wave inside its mouth, the tortoise raised a roar higher than the one from before and it stepped forward. Good, it's approaching again, that will save time.

And then, the moment the monster's body finally reached the hole….. we made our move.

"Now! Cut all the tentacles!" (Sirius)

At my signal, Emilia released six consecutive [Air-slash], slicing all of the creature's tentacles. At the same time, I dash out, I coil my [String] spell around the monster's neck and I leap over him to his other side. And then, I operate the trap which was set up in the hole I dug.

"Activate!" (Sirius)

Inside the hole, I have installed an [Impact] spell made of my condensed mana, in a standby state. It will detonate and explode sooner or later if I leave it as is, but I've tied [String] on it, so I can make the spell explode arbitrarily by using the thread. And now is the best timing for that.

As the monster's body became inclined on the uphill slope, I pictured an [Antitank mine], which could decimate the masses of steel that were the tanks in my previous life, while simultaneously detonating my [Impact] spell right under the creature's neck, by combining that with a full force back pull of the [String] coiled around it, the monster's huge body was greatly destabilized and I succeeded at flipping it on its back.

A huge thud was generated as if an earthquake had occurred, and the instant the monster's defenseless abdomen appeared in broad daylight, Reus leaped.

"Thereee-!" (Reus)

On the perfectly flat spread out belly, there is a barely protected part dyed in red that Reus has stabbed his sword into using his whole body's weight. However, due to the violent attempts of the monster at getting up, Reus' foothold has become unstable, and the sword has stopped mid-blade without getting to finish entering. He tries to cram it further, but

he seems to already be at his limit attempting not to part from the sword that is clinging to the violently shaking monster. Reus is clenching his teeth and putting up with it, however, the way things are going, he most likely won't be able to hold on to the sword and he'll leave enough time for the tentacles to regenerate and raise back the tortoise's body. Though I don't want to take his credit, I have to make a fast decision.

"Reus! Part from the sword!" (Sirius)

"But I'll be able able to knock it down if I hang on a little more!" (Reus)

"Don't get cocky! Just listen up and let go!" (Sirius)

"Uh-!?" (Reus)

I jump up right over the monster's head, and having confirmed that Reus has withdrawn, I shoot [Launcher] into the monster's face. Although the monster stiffened for no more than a moment when the impact striked its face, that moment was plenty enough. Aiming at the handle of the sword that has stopped moving, I shoot my [Magnum] spell. The handle was shattered due to the excessive power, but the blade perfectly embedded itself inside the monster's body which swayed widely. At the end, the Jewel Turtle greatly stretched out its neck, and with an exhausted groan, it stopped moving.

"… Is it… over?" (Reus)

"I don't know" (Sirius)

Emilia, who had run out of magical power and was enduring her fatigue, and Reus, who was gasping for breath, raised their eyes to the monster in blank amazement. And upon my landing nearby, the siblings swarmed toward me.

"Have you defeated the monster?" (Emilia)

"You did it, big brother!" (Reus)

“Yeah, I did beat it. However, it’s too careless of you two to stand idly by in such a place. What if my attack wasn’t able to knock the monster down and it started moving again?” (Sirius)

Though using my [Search] spell, I know for sure that the monster is dead, there are animals out there that can stop their movements and act dead. So there should be monsters that can do that too, and this one has a large body so it wouldn’t be weird for it to take a long delay to restore its vitality. I want the two to become able to determine whether they delivered a sure finishing blow and whether it’s alright for them to drop their guard.

“Emilia, don’t you have something to say?” (Sirius)

“Yes… I didn’t follow your instruction…” (Emilia)

“Even if you say that, I’m not any better. I followed you, and I ended up not obeying the order that Sirius-sama yelled at us either…” (Reus)

The siblings’ ears and tails are completely hanging down and their faces seem like they are about to cry. I’m sorry for them, but that wasn’t what I meant to say.

“Let me first tell you that I’m not angry because you didn’t follow my instruction. Don’t misunderstand.” (Sirius)

“What? But we….” (Emilia)

“Yeah…. we didn’t follow your orders” (Reus)

“It certainly is bad to not listen to the instructions. However, it would be troublesome for you to not be able to act without following orders. I’ll tell you the points I want you two to reflect on in order. I’ll start with you, Emilia, but tell me, what did you hear of my order?” (Sirius)

“I only heard you tell me to come to your position.” (Emilia)

At that time, I told her to lure the monster a little more and to then come to my position… she might have caught only the latter half of my words. My way of talking was also slightly at fault, I shall reflect on that.

“You knew the monster would fire soil if you took too much distance from the monster, right? And yet, you didn’t think of questioning what I said and you separated from it?” (Sirius)

“Well that’s… I thought that you probably had some plan, it’s you we’re talking about after all.” (Emilia)

“Then, I’ll say it clearly. Even I am not perfect. If you feel there is a problem with an instruction, even if it’s from me, I want you to stop and think it over.” (Sirius)

She’s completely depending on me, that’s quite bad. If someone were unlucky enough to fly by a furious dragon, they’d be almost certain to die, but Emilia would gladly attack one if I were to order her to do so, and that’s scary. I don’t want to make a combat soldier who only obeys to orders.

I want her to think for herself and to become independent so that she’ll be able to survive. When that time comes, will she come with me…? I’ll leave that choice to the person herself. It’d be good enough if she could grow greatly and strongly using me as a stepping stone.

Well, I won’t let my self be stepped on easily though.

“I know I’m saying complicated things. However, even if you don’t understand now, I want you to put that in a corner of your head and remember it. Now, I’ll be punishing you so close your eyes.” (Sirius)

“Yes!” (Emilia)

She’s trembling with her eyes firmly shut, she doesn’t have to be that afraid though, does she? For the time being, I conclude by flicking her lightly on her head.

“Next up is Reus. The matter about you following Emilia is alright, but what did you do after you stabbed your sword?” (Sirius)

“Hmm…… I tried to thrust it further?” (Reus)

“That’s right, you tried to do so at that time, but no matter how you look at it, you were only able to cling to it, right? Then, why did you try to thrust it?” (Sirius)

“I thought I could do it” (Reus)

“That’s conceited. Though you’ve certainly become stronger, there are a lot of fellows who are stronger than you in the world. You should know that well.” (Sirius)

Because of how he gets beaten up by Lior and I, he knows it’s true, even if it’s unpleasant. And he nods repeatedly and fervently at that truth.

“You need to assess quickly what is in the range of your capabilities and what is not. In simpler words, you need to make sure whether you can slice an other party or not.” (Sirius)

“I’ve clearly understood!” (Reus)

This is bad, isn’t this going to infect him with Lior’s weirdness? I’ll lighten up my wording.(Note to self: Wtf does this even mean?)

“And if you judge that you can’t slice…. that you can’t knock down an other party, then give up and ask the help of others. You weren’t fighting by yourself just now, were you?.” (Sirius)

“No, big sister and you were here.” (Reus)

“Exactly, don’t go thinking you can do anything and everything by yourself. It you fight your opponents in cooperation and keep on surviving, you’ll become even stronger. And then one day, you’ll become able to knock down those opponents by yourself.” (Sirius)

“Yes!” (Reus)

“When you make a mistake, make the best use of it and learn from it. If you permit failure now, you won’t fear any challenge.” (Sirius)

I ended by hitting Reus lightly on his head just like his older sister.

Sermons are disagreeable for both the scolding side and the scolded one, but things like this are necessary. I’ll get done around here this time.

“But well, although I’ve been telling you off up to here, you two did well. You fought such a huge demon without flinching, you were very brave.” (Sirius)

“For real?!” (Reus)

“For real. Emilia, the magic you used to cut all those tentacles was splendid, and Reus, your timing in jumping out to the monster after it got turned over was perfect too. You two have become reliably strong.” (Sirius)

“We did it! A pat, a pat!” (Reus & Emilia?)

The gloomy atmosphere from earlier flew away when I patted the siblings as they requested and they were happily shaking their tails. Well, I’ve said everything I had to say anyway.

“Sirius-sama—!” (Noel)

As I looked back to the voice calling out to me, Noel and Dee, who was carrying Elena on his shoulders, were running towards here. Having waved our hands to show that we were safe, we also headed toward the attendants.

“A-are you alright?!” (Elena)

When Elena got off Dee’s back, she immediately held my shoulders to verify whether I had injuries or nor. This strength absolutely can’t be thought of as the power of a person in a weak physical condition.

“I’m unhurt. If I had to say then, these two are…” (Sirius)

“-!? You two, show me if you’re injured!” (Elena)

“I-I’m alright. I’m just a little worn-out.” (Emilia)

“Me too.” (Reus)

“…Really? Haah… thank goodness.” (Elena)

Once she obtained peace of mind, she sank down to the ground. Dee and Noel also asked about our condition, I’m really sorry about always making them worry.

“Still… now that I look at it again, it’s really big” (Noel)

“Isn’t it? Ah, which reminds me, my sword!” (Reus)

As Noel muttered emotively while touching the Jewel Turtle which became a quiet corpse, Reus went toward his sword that was stuck in the monster’s abdomen and that he had just recalled. Ah… shit.

“Aaaaaah! M-my sword…” (Reus)

I forgot I broke a part of the handle with my magic. Moreover, the sword’s blade is deep inside the turtle’s body, recovering it is completely impossible. Discouraged, Reus returned while uttering a sigh.

“Sorry, big bro Dee. The sword I got from you is completely broken” (Reus)

It’s something Dee bought him when he went out to the town, so he was really glad when he received it. Dee patted the head of the downhearted Reus.

“All that matters is that you three are safe. I’ll buy you another one.” (Dee)

“Really?!” (Reus)

“Yes… I’ll look for something better. As for the money……” (Dee)

“I see! We can get the jewel from earlier” (Noel)

The two’s gaze turned to the jewel turtle… and froze. Mhm, I can understand that. Because even I only noticed it now.

The big jewel from before was attached on top of the Jewel Turtle’s carapace, and the Jewel Trutle is now dead and overturned. Question is… what happened to the top of the shell?

“Sirius-sama—! The jewel, the jewel got crushed!” (Noel)

“Calm down, I got it. I’ll turn it over now, watch.” (Sirius)

There is no heavy machinery such as a crane here, but I have the [Impact] spell that can release a shock similar to a bomb’s. And although I took various troublesome measures earlier because the other party was moving, this fellow is no longer moving, if I can deal with it calmly, I’ll manage one way or another.

For the time being, I install my [Impact] spell on various places on the Jewel Turtle’s body, I’ll try to turn it upside down by detonating the shocks simultaneously.

While working on that, I asked Dee how do other adventurers defeat Jewel Turtles. They attack single-mindedly until their attacks surpass the other party’s defense… that’s all there is to it. There are also some that get too enthusiastic and end up screwing up and breaking the jewel. Naturally, no person was ever seen defeating one in the same way as me like me, but if there is such a person, I’d like to meet them by all means.

After I finished working, I made everyone fall back and I launched my [Impact] spells. Serial consecutive explosive sounds rose like fireworks, in consequence of the explosion’s kinetic energy, the Jewel Turtle’s body shook widely and, with an earth tremor, it finally returned to its original position.

“Oh~… It’s back to how it was before, but, how did you do that to such a huge thing? You’re as out of the norm as ever, Sirius-sama.” (Noel)

“As expected, big Brother is incredible-!” (Reus)

“Woah…” (Emilia)

Having seemingly no words, Emilia is staring at me in reverence with sparkling eyes. Please don’t fall in love… but you already did, didn’t you?

I climbed the uneven rocky face of the tortoise, and when I brushed off the dirt remaining on the summit, a golden jewel appeared. It hasn’t been damaged by the impact, it’s just like when I first saw it. Though I had some slight difficulties, I got it at last. I forcibly plucked out each rock on the jewel’s circumference to enhance its build, and I then descended from the monster’s body.

“Dee, if you don’t mind.” (Sirius)

“Leave it to me.” (Dee)

I immediately handed it to Dee and asked him to appraise it. Though that’s not his domain of expertise, he has traveled a lot so he can somewhat judge treasures. He flicked it lightly, he looked through it in the sun, and after watching it for a few minutes, Dee returned the jewel back to me while slightly sweating.

“Although It’s an amateurish estimation, this object has a considerable value. It could certainly go for dozens of gold coins and…” (Dee)

“““Dozens of gold coins?!”““ (Reus & Noel & Emilia)

The beastkins yelled in harmony. Well, it’s not a disproportionate reaction, even if we get the lowest price of 10 gold coins, that’s a million yen. Earning this much by merely fighting for less than an hour is really good. However, this can only be considered by one who has some level of ability.

“Amazing, amazing! You’ll be able to buy an even bigger and heavier sword, right?” (Reus)

“Hey, Reus. Sirius-sama will decide on how it will be used so don’t speak selfishly.” (Emilia)

“Aw, my sword…” (Reus)

He was dispirited by Emilia's rebuke. Sorry Reus, we'll leave the sword for next time.

"I've already decided on its use. Emilia, Reus… the money we'll get from selling this will be set aside for your entrance fees."

"Huh?… Entrance fees?" (Reus)

"So you mean, we can go to school too?" (Emilia)

Before, I've explained to the two the matter about me being driven out of the house and going to school.

I thought about entrusting them to the attendants after leaving the house, but they insisted to follow me. They said, with watery eyes, that they'd be live-in employees working in the school's town and that they wanted to be closer to me even if only a little. Beastkins are discriminated against a lot so I felt anxious, which is why I thought it would be great if I made the two enter school too. The biggest problem was the entrance fee but this turtle fellow has solved it.

The sibling couldn't believe that they'd also go to school, so Elena gently smiled at the two flustered kids. That's right, It's more believable coming for Elena, isn't it?

"Yes, that's right. It's something I've been speaking of with Sirius-sama for a while now." (Elena)

"Going to school… along with Sirius-sama…" (Emilia)

"For real? Even I can go?" (Reus)

"You obtained the money by defeating the monster in cooperation with Sirius-sama. And Sirius-sama allowed it so there is no problem. Go to school with your heads high." (Elena)

""Hooray——!"" (Emilia & Reus)

Perhaps from feeling real excitement at last, the two were jumping up and down happily while embracing each other.

“You did it you two! I’m glad too!” (Noel)

Noel intruded too, and the sight of the three who were becoming rumpled while rolling around on the ground was like the comforting sight of pets playing together.

After I watched for a while, Dee, who was examining the Jewel Turtle, approached, stood next to me and came to whisper to my ear. The three beastkins were being noisy in a distant place, so it’s probably a talk I wouldn’t really want them to hear. *(TLN: I guess he means that if Dee is whispering despite the three being far, it means he thinks Sirius really wouldn’t want them to hear)*

“I’m very sorry for pouring cold water on your expectations, but I don’t think something like this can be sold in a small town. Moreover… It could also become the seed of troubles.” (Dee)

In this world, money exchanges are done by passing cash directly, to begin with, there are no methods to make checking accounts, to do bank transfers and so forth with certain trust here.

So if he sells this jewel, he’ll get dozens of gold coins on the spot, however, depending on the shop, it might not be bought. Anyway, it’s an object that would surely become a fortune, if a person were to buy it, thieves and people from the underworld would probably get wind of it it and come out of nowhere, the person would have to manage firmly so that the jewel doesn’t get taken from them by those people. Though a big store would most likely have a flawless security, small stores can’t afford that so buying things is difficult for them.

Another problem is us getting attacked. One would surely be aimed at by those foolish people when carrying dozens of gold coins. It would be okay if the neighborhood weren’t aware of the gold and if it weren’t seen by anyone, but the fact that the jewel was bought would surely leak out in the town at some point. “An amazing jewel appeared!” ”Which shop did it show in?” “Who brought it there?” The information about who it was sold to would circulate, the fact that that person possesses a lot of money would become known and they would be aimed at. If the person acts unskillfully, there is also a possibility that they’d be tailed and that the people aiming at them would intrude in their residence.

So though we can get the money, one wrong move and it might seriously become the seed of troubles.

“We’ll think about that situation in time. At worst, we should just give this to the school as a substitute.” (Sirius)

“I see. Then, Sirius-sama, you’re fine with managing the jewel, right?” (Dee)

“That’s right, I had better hold on to it. Leaving that aside, Dee, is this one of the precious stones from the Jewel Turtle?” (Sirius)

“You noticed? Please take a look at this.” (Dee)

I sweeped away the soil sticking to the Jewel Turtle’s surface with my hand, and its skin, seemingly made of stones, appeared. Looking near the stones, there were countless lights being reflected, some parts were shining in red or blue depending on the position. Could it be that….

“Are all the colored stones jewels?” (Sirius)

“That is so.” (Dee)

Seriously? Well, the book did say that the tortoise can make one rich in a single stroke, didn’t it? Guessing from the colour, those are rubies and sapphires, in addition there are emeralds and a great variety of other things. However, not only these are only small beads, but they’re also raw ores that haven’t been manufactured, I have misgivings about exchanging them for money.

“Don’t they seem like they’re too small? I don’t have enough experience with stones.” (Dee)

“That’s too bad. However, if you search well, there are slightly big ones too. How about this?” (Sirius)

I found a sapphire the size of a little finger at a slightly high point. This could probably be used as an ornament, I think we could get some money if we sell it.

“This seems good. I’ll try and go sell it.” (Dee)

“Oh, I know! Dee, how about you get someone to manufacture this into Noel’s wedding ring?” (Sirius)

“……what?” (Dee)

Dee exposed an idiotic face he rarely shows.

“There are probably some jewels left, so use the gold you get from selling those as the manufacturing price. You always do troublesome things, so you should be allowed to receive favors like that.” (Sirius)

“Excuse me I…” (Dee)

“Since Noel is pure, blue should match well. Don’t you think that the contrast of color between her red hair and a blue ring would give a good vibe?” (Sirius)

“It sure would… Wait, no, stop joking, please!” (Dee)

“Joking… you say?” (Sirius)

Though Dee got unusually angry, he held his tongue upon seeing my serious expression. We looked at each other for a while, and when I deemed the timing right, I handed him the sapphire I was holding.

“Leave the managing of the rest to me.” (Sirius)

“…Thank you very much.” (Dee)

He was hesitant but he eventually lifted it to his breast pocket, seeing him, I chucked inwardly, he has learned well.

After that, I assembled the attendants, we examined every nook and cranny of the Jewel Turtle, and we were able to collect some raw jewels that seemed like the could be exchanged

for money even though they were small. It looks like something that one could discover when searching for it, it's likely to sell well even in a small town.

Though I never thought that that memory-making picnic would turn out like this, I obtained the entrance fees for my two disciples, so it proved to be a worthwhile picnic.

I carried Elena on my back, and we began walking back home contentedly.

The remainder of the year went well for us.

However, life is not so sweet.

Our last trial was approaching imminently.

And so then, half a year later, the situation I feared finally occurred.

Elena collapsed again.

Chapter 20

Pure love

It's now half a year before going to school.

The current season is a season called leucojum-moon, in my previous world's terms, it's winter. *(TLN: It means snowflake-moon, I called it as I did because I can)*

As the chilly days go on, our heating magic formation keeps being used at full capacity.

Though we still have the jewel from the Jewel Turtle at hand, Elena, Dee and I have had talks of going to sell it soon. We also have the money that we've been saving for five years, so there are no problems on the 'capital' side.

Training is also going well, knowing that they can go to school with me, the two disciples are showing more and more enthusiasm. When I first picked them up, I had made a short-term schedule thinking that we'd separate upon my going to school, but that is no longer necessary, so I adjusted the schedule looking at the long term.

It's nevertheless severe, but the siblings are persevering and growing up well.

The attendants' destinations have been decided, too.

I'll start with Noel, but she seems like she'll just be going back to her hometown village.

Her village was poor and she had many siblings at home, so, with being a migrant worker as a pretext, she left the village for the sake of reducing the cost of food, however, it seems like while exchanging a couple letters, she found out that the current feudal lord was quite capable and that the lacking in the village had been considerably improved. It's also expanding, although only slightly, and it's tolerant towards beastkins, so, believing that there would some job to be found now, even if only a singe one, Noel decided to go back home.

Dee will also head to Noel's village.

He has his cooking and his experience as an adventurer as his good points. With Noel's help, he should be able to manage his bad speech somehow or another, and if they taste his cuisine, be it only once, nobody will utter a complaint. His cooking should be plenty enough for him to make a living.

Rather than that, half a year has passed and he hasn't been able to confess to Noel yet. His sloppiness has been getting quite irritating, so I'm thinking of a plan to incite him to do some night crawling.

And then, there is Elena….

That day, I was having a mock battle with Reus.

Noel and Dee were doing housework, Emilia was receiving education from Elena, and, though Reus and I were merely exchanging blows with our wooden swords, I was currently in the middle of fixing his bad habits.

"Big brother――! I give up, I give up!" (Reus)

"How many times do I need to say it for you to understand? If you get caught like this it's because you're not pulling back your sword." (Sirius)

He has too many openings, so I make him eat an Iron Claw to instill the training in his body.

"Well, let us try once again. Next up you――" (Sirius)

"Sirius-sama! Please.. please come at once!" (Emilia)

The voice of Emilia, who had her head out of the window, was no longer a yell but something closer to a shriek. I returned to the house hurriedly after tending to my body, and upon charging to Elena's room, I understood everything.

"Elena-san… Elena-san collapsed… she's not moving….." (Emilia)

Elena was breathing roughly with a pale face void of life, while being held in Emilia's arms. On the other hand, Emilia, who seems like she'll burst into tears at anytime, has been simply calling Elena's name again and again.

"Elena-san! Elena-san!" (Emilia)

"I… I'm alright. I just need… a little… rest" (Elena)

"Don't talk! We need to move Elena to her bed immediately." (Sirius)

"Please pull yourself together! Elena-san!" (Emilia)

"Emilia！" (Sirius)

"-!?" (Emilia)

With a thundering voice, I redirect Emilia's attention toward myself and I address her slowly to make her settle down. That's right, I must not get impatient here. The top priority is to first carry Elena to her bed.

"Listen up, for starters, move Elena to her bed. I won't be able to examine her otherwise. Do you understand?" (Sirius)

"Y… es…" (Emilia)

Maybe because she was given a purpose, Emilia calmed down and carefully moved Elena to her bed, as if she was a fragile object. The technique she used to move her without putting a burden on her despite her agitation is probably the result of her attendant education.

Before I became aware of it, Noel and Dee were waiting behind me, as I was gathering mana at Elena's bedside. Though they're anxious, the two are standing quietly, seemingly waiting for my diagnosis. As for the siblings, they keep on crying while holding Elena's hand.

Using [Scan], I examine Elena's condition. From the head to the abdomen, from the waist to the feet, I took my time and scanned her body throughly.

And then… it became clear.

"In the end… it came" (Sirius)

This is neither a sickness nor an injury, it's simply, her lifespan.

I asked before, and it seems that in her early years, there were many times when she was not able to eat sufficiently. To make matters worse, she would do harsh labor in an environment where she wouldn't receive proper nourishment, that was inadequate for the growing girl to develop to the term of her growth.

This right now is the price to pay for that. In my previous life, people lived up to be nearly a hundred years, but in this world where medicine isn't developed, Elena might be considered as a long-lived person. Recovery magic doesn't have the omnipotent ability of extending one's lifespan.

There is only one thing I can say for sure. She… doesn't have much longer.

Her body was already at its limits from before. Through the past half year, her sitting time increased, soon, the time she'd spend not moving increased, and lately, she had been spending a lot of time bedridden.

And yet, when teaching Emilia, she'd stand up and she'd point out her bad points by personally demonstrating to her. Bearing with the pain running through her body, mustering her remaining strength, all for the sake of imparting her own techniques, even if only a little.

"Sirius-sama! Elena-san is fine, right?" (Emilia)

"Big Brother, you can cure her, right?" (Reus)

Though Noel and Dee appear to have understood by my reaction, the siblings are still clinging to the hope that is myself. However, believing in miracles not caused by myself is not in my nature, to begin with, I do not want to hide in the illusion called “miracle”. I’m sorry for the two of them, but I’m no god. It’s impossible for me to somehow influence one’s lifespan.

“…. You must not…. be unreasonable” (Elena)

“Elena-san!” (Emilia)

Though Elena has regained consciousness, her face is still as white as before, and her condition is showing no signs of improvement. Having stroked the heads of the siblings who were weeping while clinging to her, she turned her face my way.

“Sirius-sama, you’re done performing my diagnosis, right?” (Elena)

“Yeah, I’ve looked into it.” (Sirius)

“Well then, the results. I want you to inform everyone, too.” (Elena)

“… Is that really alright?” (Sirius)

“It’s my personal problem so I’m ready. Moreover, they all have the right to know.” (Elena)

In spite of the bitter situation, she was smiling gently. I see… she has made up her mind, huh.

“Elena, you have two months… No, it’ll probably be one month.” (Sirius)

At my decree, the two siblings crumbled down, while Dee and Noel casted down their eyes sorrowfully.

“Did you hear? I do not have long. Therefore…” (Elena)

Elena looked once at all of us, and with a serious gaze, she stated.

“Be prepared.” (Elena)

A few days have passed after that, but her conditions is only becoming more severe.

She can no longer stand up from her bed, she somehow lives while receiving Noel and Emilia’s care. Though we all stay beside Elena whenever we have free time, nodding while lying down and talking lightly is her limit, that sight of her, foretelling her death, is unbearable to see. However, that’s Elena’s consideration, she’s showing it to us on purpose in order to make a point.

[I’m going to pass away, so prepare yourselves to catch that blow]

That is what she meant when she told us to be prepared a few days ago. That would be showing a painful reality once again to the the siblings who have barely recovered from their parents’ death, but it’s unavoidable by now. Therefore, hardening her heart, she’s displaying her dying self, to make this even little bit easier to deal with, I guess.

Though the situation is as such, training went on. Although the two often often lose their concentration, I believe moving their bodies allows them to vent out their feelings. Taking care of not injuring our bodies, the days go by.

Half a month has passed.

Elena cannot eat solid food anymore, she can only drink some specially mixed nutritional supplements for her meals.

Maybe because they have experienced falling into despair once, the siblings made their resolution in these days. They’re showing their consideration by addressing Elena with smiles, appealing to her that they are fine, wanting to give her peace of mind.

It might soon be time.

I wonder, what can I possibly do?

Thinking so, I read all the books and documents I could lay my hands on, and I came upon a certain thing which I proposed to Elena, and which she approved of.

The thing I wanted to make was not praiseworthy, depending on the point of view, it was a cruel measure. Even so, I had to do something, I wanted her to be satisfied.

With her approval, I flew to the sky to go gather materials, I spent a few days on it, and at last, I completed the thing.

After handing it to Elena, all I could do was wait for her decision.

And then… That day arrived.

One month after Elena collapsed.

That day's morning started very noisily.

"Good morning, everyone" (Elena)

""""Elena-san?!"""" (Noel & Reus & Emilia & Dee)

Everyone shrieked, except for myself. No wonder, Elena, who was bedridden, is standing in the kitchen, cooking. Disregarding them, who are in blank amazement from the incomprehensible situation, Elena is making a dish while humming.

"Elena-san… Could it be that you have recovered?" (Emilia)

"I'll do the explaining later. Let us have breakfast first, shall we?" (Elena)

The breakfast displayed on the table is merely one of Elena's standard menus. Bacon sandwiches and egg soup, The chest dances the dish that Elena made.

However, in front of her only, there was no dish, there was just a glass of water.

"Are you not going to eat, Elena-san?" (Emilia)

“Well, that’s… Please stop worrying about me and eat.” (Elena)

Though they felt a little doubtful, they all decided to give priority to her home cooking, which hadn’t been served in a long while.

“How is it? I haven’t prepared anything in a while so I hope it doesn’t have a weird taste.” (Elena)

“It hasn’t changed.” (Emilia)

“Thank goodness. It has been a long time so I was anxious.” (Elena)

“That’s right. It hasn’t changed from my favorite sandwich back in olden days.” (Sirius)

“I like it, too!” (Reus)

At the end of the peaceful breakfast, Elena prepared an after meal tea and stated a shocking truth.

“Today, I am going to die.” (Elena)

Everyone stopped moving. I personally knew of the circumstances so I just stared at Elena indifferently as she spoke up, but Noel, who had recovered at last, raised her hand and asked a question.

“Excuse me… could you explain, please? That was too abrupt, I don’t know what to make of it…” (Noel)

“Certainly. The reason why I can stand and cook normally is thanks to the help of a certain drug.” (Elena)

“A drug… you mean, a therapeutic drug?” (Noel)

“No, It’s different. This is a forbidden drug that improves the subject’s physical strength and reduces his life force. The drug’s effects will last until evening, therefore, I can move normally up to then.” (Elena)

Life boost. *(The life grinding pill)*

That's the drug that Elena took.

Its effect is just as she explained it, and it's frequently used in times of war, it seems. Normally, it would wear out after a few hours and the user would be in bed for the few following days, however, I was able to adjust the drug, I suppressed its effects and I extended its durability. But the burden afterwards it is that much more brutal, when that time will come, it'll certainly be the end for her.

"Why take such a drug? Why… Elena-san?" (Emilia)

"Even if I were not to drink it, I'd have a few days left, I refuse to spend that much time lying down. So, allow me to live normally just today." (Elena)

""""Huh~?"""" (Dee & Emilia & Noel & Reus)

Everybody was amazed by that unreasonable statement. Even I feel the same, but it's a rare act of selfishness from her, so I really want to let her do as she pleases. Since Elena was completely unfazed by their gazes, everyone's lines of sight converged to me, as if asking me what I intend to do about it.

"It's just as she said. I'm also canceling my training for today and I'll be taking this opportunity to relax at home. Therefore, you may do as you wish too, Elena." (Sirius)

"Thank you very much. Now then, Noel, Emilia. It's time for house cleaning, come help me." (Elena)

""Y-Yes!"" (Noel & Emilia)

After that, Elena handled the housework just like she used to.

Starting with cleaning the house, then doing the laundry, and making lunch, she went on with the household chores while genuinely having fun. Though everybody was bewildered

at first, they resigned themselves to her excessively normal behavior and helped with the housework together.

Patting Reus and Emilia more than necessary, having a tea break with Dee and Noel, and giving me a lap pillow, she spent the whole time with a smile.

And then, by the end of dinner, she called everyone to her room.

Lying down in her bed without even having been told to by anyone, she looked at us, who were lined up around her, and then opened her mouth.

“Today was really enjoyable. Since It’ll probably be time soon, there are some things I’d like to pass on to you.” (Elena)

With a tender smile, she talked to each us while calling our individual names.

Telling Noel that she’ll be fine if she gets herself out and doesn’t forget the basics, warning Dee to correct his poor talking skills, gently scolding Reus to mind his language, and telling Emilia to support me and make the best use of the techniques she taught her.

Hearing her, the whole crew was shedding tears, but as I continued listening to that speech …. I started feeling angry.

If I were to say what I was angry at, that would be Elena’s behavior.

“Why……” (Sirius)

“Is there a problem, Sirius-sama?” (Elena)

Elena questioned me while smiling, but I’m getting fed up with that smile now. What’s with that smile? Moreover, telling everyone such a bland speech, is this just a simple maneuver to pass over a job?

Are those your true intentions? I expressly prepared that drug, but could Elena really be satisfied with this?

“Elena… is this really alright?” (Sirius)

“I am very sorry, did I contrary you in any way?” (Elena)

With my change of mood, the surroundings started being noisy. As an attendant, Elena tries to soothe the change in her master, but that’s not lessening my anger.

Contrary me?

Yeah, you certainly did.

You… how long are you going to act like a servant? Our relation is that of a master and his attendant, but you’re on the verge of death, speak like family. You used to pat my head like a mother so—

(“You’re fit as a mother indeed, Elena. I, too, think of you as one.” (Sirius))

(“-!? Ah, T-thank you very much!” (Elena))

(“You two are a little like a mother and a father.” (Noel))

(“Hey hey, it’s impossible in terms of age. Make me a big brother at least.” (Sirius))

(“In others words, am I Sirius-sama’s mother? That’s wonderful.” (Elena))

—-Ah, so that’s how it was.

Elena is not the only one responsible for trying to act like a servant, I’m at fault too.

Instead of acting like an adult, I should have just behaved like a spoiled child, receiving her affection upfront.

“I deeply apologize if I have spoiled your mood, Sirius-sama. Therefore, about my words, you can……” (Elena)

“I hear you. However, I want you to show and speak out your real feelings more… Mother.” (Sirius)

Though she was surprised by my words and opened her eyes wide, she immediately shook her head and smiled wryly.

“Stop joking please. Your only mother is Aria-sama, I’m naught but an attendant who serves you.” (Elena)

“That’s wrong. I have two mothers, one that gave birth to me, and one that raised me. And the mother who raised me is you… Elena.” (Sirius)

“Me… your mother…” (Elena)

“I guess I’m very spoiled. I mean, I have two mothers. So, I want you to speak to everyone, not as a servant, but as a mother and as family. Please, mother.” (Sirius)

“…. Is it really fine?” (Elena)

“I already think of you as nothing but a mother. So please, if you don’t, I just might come to hate you, mother” (Sirius)

Tears peeked through Elena’s eyes. Those are genuine happy tears. Without wiping them, she fixed her eyes straight on me.

“Sirius-sama… No, Sirius, I don’t want you to hate me. So I’ll do as you say.” (Elena)

Though Elena’s use of a familiar language towards myself made Noel & co lose their composure, it made me feel very satisfied. That’s right, I should have got on way earlier with calling her mother like this. It took me too long to realize… dammit…

“I’m sorry everyone. So, one more time, I’ll be speaking to you if it’s alright with you.” (Elena)

This time, Elena conveyed what was truly on hear heart.

“Reus, you must properly chew when you eat. Though I’ve said it many times before, not savoring your food is impoilte to the person who made it.” (Elena)

“Su, such a thing… you don’t have to say it now……” (Reus)

“No, I’m saying precisely because it’s now. In addition, you have to learn polite language soon. Otherwise you’ll seem like a suspicious person and you’ll trouble the people close to you, so be careful, alright?” (Elena)

“Y,yes… Alright!” (Reus)

“Next up is Dee. You’re the eldest, but would you allow me to tell you a few words?” (Elena)

“… Yes.” (Dee)

“Being careful is all right, but you’re just being cowardly. Have some more courage. That person keeps on waiting for your words, so act before it’s too late.” (Elena)

“I, I understand.” (Dee)

“Noel… my cute clumsy younger sister. You’ve really given me some hard times.” (Elena)

“Are you… praising me?” (Noel)

“Yes, sure, they do say that the foolish younger sisters are the cutest ones, don’t they?” (Elena)

“That’s mean~” (Noel)

“It’s alright, I like your foolishly pure self. Therefore, stay as you are.” (Elena)

“Yes… I’ll do my best” (Noel)

“Emilia, make proper use of what I’ve taught you. I’ve heard you say it many times, but your decision hasn’t changed, right?” (Elena)

“It hasn’t. Sirius-sama’s side is where I belong, not anywhere else.” (Emilia)

“I see, don’t overwork yourself though. If you hurt yourself, Sirius is the one who’ll get sad, so go easy on the self-sacrifices.” (Elena)

“I’m often told that.” (Emilia)

“Maybe you’re beyond cure. But really, take care of yourself. You’ll be supporting Sirius in the future, after all.” (Elena)

“Yes… I will… support him….” (Emilia)

“Sirius, I don’t need to tell you anything.” (Elena)

“What’s with that?” (Sirius)

“I mean, you can do anything by yourself, right?” (Elena)

“Indeed… Wait, rather, “anything” is going a little too far, don’t you think?” (Sirius)

“So you don’t completely deny it, huh? However, you really can do anything. It’s mother guaranteed.” (Elena)

“Then, it must be true.” (Sirius)

“As Aria-sama would have said, nothing is impossible for you, so I want you to live an honest life without being tied down to anybody.” (Elena)

“Leave it to me, it’s my specialty.” (Sirius)

“That’s reassuring. Leaving that aside, I have a request but… would you hear it out?” (Elena)

“What is it?” (Sirius)

“Could you call me mother again?” (Elena)

“As many times as you want, mother” (Sirius)

“Once more” (Elena)

“Mother” (Sirius)

“Even louder” (Elena)

“Mother!” (Sirius)

“Call me mom.” (Elena)

“Yes, yes, mom” (Sirius)

“As expected, mother is better.” (Elena)

“Got it, mother” (Sirius)

“Hehe, it’s my first time seeing you cry. So you’d cry for my sake, huh?” (Elena)

“That’s…. only natural, isn’t it?” (Sirius)

“You know, I am very happy right now.” (Elena)

“That’s good” (Sirius)

“But I do have one regret, it’s that I won’t be able to watch your growth any further.” (Elena)

“That should mean you’re not happy then, right?” (Sirius)

“I guess so. However, I am happy. Though it was often bitter, I had a fulfilling life. Being able to see off my beloved family like this at the end, it makes me truly… happy.” (Elena)

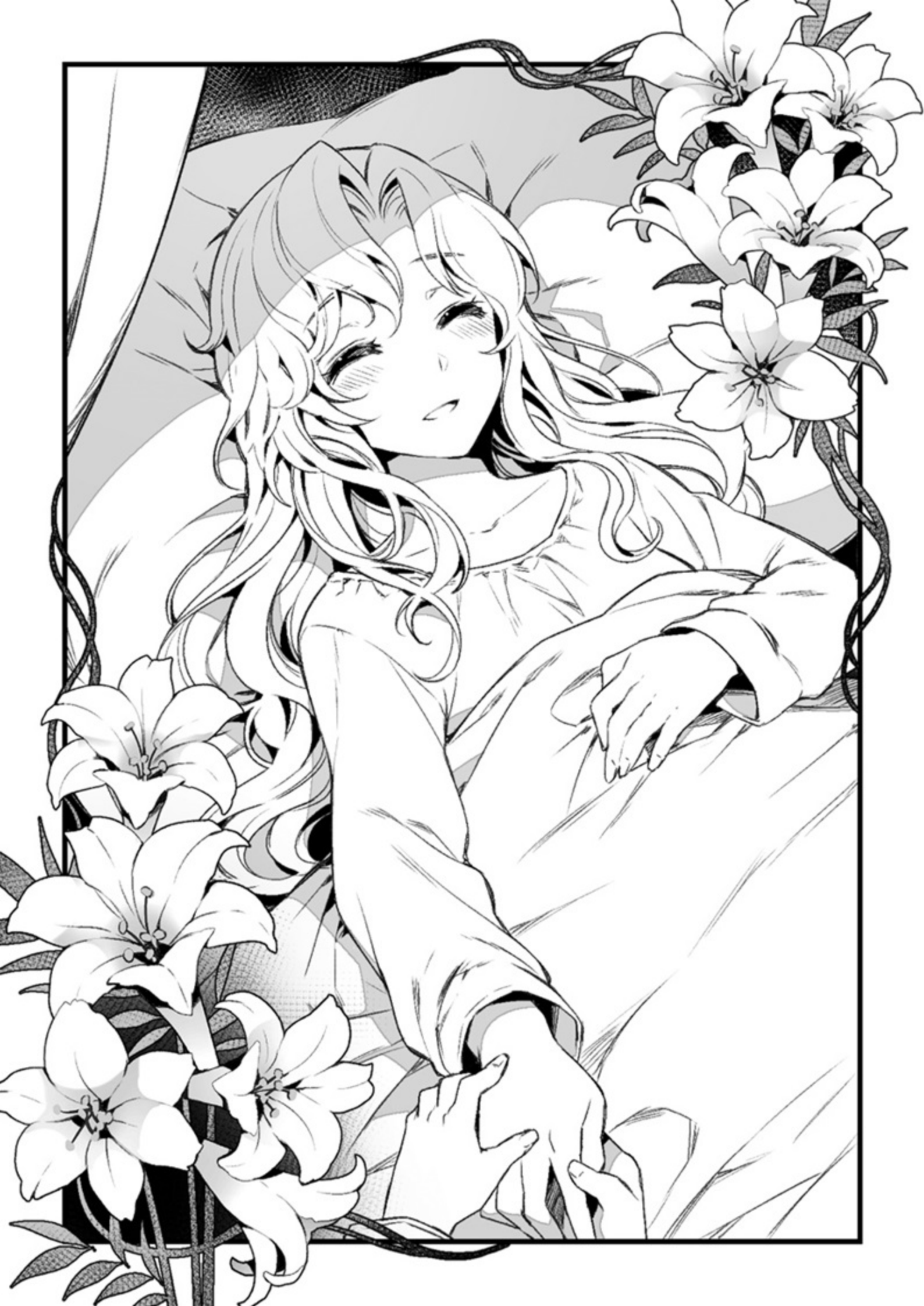
“I’m also… happy that… I was able to be with you, mother” (Sirius)

“I love you… my Sirius.” (Elena)

“I love you too, mother” (Sirius)

“Yes… those words are enough for me. Sirius…” (Elena)

“Thank you” (Elena)



— Elena —

When I came to, I was standing in a white space devoid of any extremities.

It's strange, I was just on a bed being watched over by Sirius and yet… what is the meaning of this?

[Oh come on, you came too early!]

That's… Aria-sama?!

[That's right. Long time no see, Elena]

It has been a while indeed. Your child is growing up splendidly.

[Mhm. I've been watching the whole time, so I'm aware. Also, you've made a mistake. He's not only my son, he's our son, right?]

Well, that is right.

[What's more, you're talking way too formally. We're not a master and an attendant anymore, we're just mothers.]

Your words make me glad, but it's a habit of mine. Apart from that, where in the world is this place?

[Hmm… what should I say, I wonder. Maybe you can think of it as… a dream?]

A dream? Guessing from your words, it's possible to watch Sirius from here, right?

[Huh? Aren't you adapting too fast? And here I thought you'd be a little more surprised….]

You get used to these thing when beside that child. Moreover, If I can watch over Sirius, the rest is trivial.

[I see. The place next to me is empty, so why don't you take a sit?]

You're telling me to sit but there is no chair.

[That doesn't matter in here. Look, you can see Sirius]

That's true. Mhm… he's still adorable no matter how many times I see him.

[Oh no… our son is, unexpectedly, a lady-killer. For him to make you fall like this, he's quite the sinful man]

I fell for him the moment I held him in my arms after he came to life.

[Speaking of that, I did before he was even born. My love's depth won't lose to anyone's.]

What are you saying? I love him more.

[I'm the one who loves him more!]

No, I am.

[This will go on forever. We should just say that we both can't see the depth of each other's love.]

That's right, then let us come to an agreement. However, you can't see mine more than I can't see yours.

[Ugh, you're still stubborn about the oddest things, you haven't changed.]

You haven't changed either, Aria-sama.

[I guess it's true. Hey, Elena, the only thing we can do now is watch, but I have something to tell you.]

I'm listening.

[Thank you. And… you've done well.]

… Yes.

I've led a happy life.

◆ ◆ ◆

— Sirius —

The next day, we went to the flower garden where we went for the picnic before.

What brought us all the way here is a desire to make a grave at the foundation of the tree in the garden's center.

Save for the nobles, the funerals in this world are done modestly, among family. Also, the remains of the deceased are perfectly cremated until only the bones are left, and the remaining bones are crushed as well. This is measure taken because corpses tend to absorb mana and turn into zombies. We followed that measure too, and with one hand holding a wooden box containing Elena's ashes, I started digging a grave.

The digging just quietly went on, with no one uttering a sound, and we finished Elena's burial.

"Here, big brother" (Reus)

I set up the tombstone that Reus has given me, and I carve a name with my mithril knife.The name feels kind of lonely by itself, let's add something.

"Everyone, I want to carve something more, any ideas?" (Sirius)

"Hmm, nothing comes to mind" (Noel)

"Same here" (Dee)

"I want to carve my name. "My beloved Elena-san"… or something." (Reus)

“Carving one’s own name on another person’s grave is unbecoming. But I do want to carve an expression of love like such.” (Emilia)

“Mhm… in that case, what about this?” (Sirius)

Everyone nodded in consent to the words I carved. And then, at the end, all of us offered a silent prayer.

Thus ended Elena’s funerals.

I’ve never known my mother in my previous life, as for my master who found me and raised me, she was more of a guardian than a parent.

Even after being reborn, I wasn’t able to see my mother’s face, the one who taught me of a mother’s affection was, without a doubt, Elena.

I’ve tasted sorrow many times in my previous life, I had thought my tears had dried… and yet, at the thought of her, I was moved to tears.

It was a nostalgic sensation. I sincerely believe that that “mother’s affection” which awakened it is great.

Elena, you, who poured your innocent and pure love without stint.

Elena, you, who kept on supporting me, on supporting the family, from behind.

Farewell. You dear person who taught me the warmth of a mother, for the first time.

And please… rest in peace.

ELENA

— The words carved on the tombstone —

[Here lies Elena… a loyal attendant who was loved more than family.]

Chapter 21

Elena

I was of poor commoner birth.

Each day was without knowing if I would even get that day's meal, but having kind parents at my side, I was able to endure.

However they died in an epidemic, and I was left alone.

No relatives, nor connections to rely on… but I did not want do die, so I desperately continued living.

I worked myself to the bone, and one day, when I grew enough to be seen as a woman…. a turning point stumbled upon me.

A certain noble saw me working in town and fell in love at first sight, so he invited me, saying he wanted to hire me as his servant.

The job included attending in the bedroom, but with a job promising guaranteed meals and a salary almost impossible earn in current lifestyle, there were no reasons to hesitate.

And so I became a noble's servant, and continued growing while learning various things as one.

After a few years…. when I became used to attending goshujin-sama, and gained a decent status at the mansion… I was afflicted with an illness.

I was able to keep my life, but my body weakened in addition leaving even more dreadful side effects.

My body became unable to ever give birth to a child that was supposed to become my sole family to me, who lost her parents.

And as if adding insult to my injury, I was driven out of the mansion.

Not having enough physical strength to even perform at the bedroom, I ended up completely forsaken.

Driven out from the mansion, unable to give birth, I lost hope in everything, thinking anything and everything did not matter anymore.

With my luggage in hand, I sat in a daze at a corner of the town, it would not be surprising if I was attacked at any time, that kind of me…. was approached by a single girl.

“Nee, onee-san, what are you doing at a place like this?” (Aria)

That was my encounter with Aria-sama.

An encounter of fate…. that gave me salvation from despair.

◆ ◆ ◆

After that I became Aria-sama’s servant, and watched over her growth.

Aria-sama is my patron and while I never let it show in my words nor attitude, I walked together thinking of her as my much younger sister.

Afterwards… I met Dee, I met Noel, and even if Eldrand house is ruined, I only live for Aria-sama’s sake.

And… Aria-sama who got sired with a child of the one I hate….

“Aria-sama! Please….look! It is a boy!” (Elena)

“Aa….I’m glad. It was….born safely” (Aria)

“Please hold yourself together Aria-sama! Are you not going to hold the child?” (Elena)

I call out to her while holding the baby that was just born, but Aria-sama’s condition is only getting worse.

As I thought, giving birth with her current physical strength was too much.

But… I was not able to stop her.

Because I could understand Aria-sama’s wish to give birth to the point it hurt.

“Aria-sama! Please. For this child… for us… please live Aria-sama!” (Elena)

I understand that the flame of Aria-sama’s life is about to dissapear.

My parents… Aria-sama, who saved me, as well.

All people dear to me….end up leaving me.

“No. I…don’t want to lose people important to me anym-….” (Elena)

“What… are you saying. You’re not….only losing” (Aria)

“But Aria-sama, you….” (Elena)

And Aria-sama, after taking the baby from me, smiles while showing me it’s face.

“Here, look closely. A new…. life” (Aria)

“!?” (Elena)

“Elena, you might not given birth to this child… but this baby is everyone’s child. Raise it… with great care” (Aria)

“No, let us do it together, Aria-sama! With everyone… let us raise a splendid child!” (Elena)

“….That’s true, I… want to raise it too…. but that’s not quite possible, I think?”

Aa…Please don’t.

I don’t… I don’t want… this….

“Your name is Sirius. My Sirius… I love you. Live not bound by anyone, straighforwardly, believing in yourself. That is kaa-san’s wish. Elena… I leave the rest to you. Give him my share of love as well” (Aria)

And after entrusting Sirius-sama to me, Aria-sama….

“Aria-sama!? Aria…sama….” (Elena)

Having accomplished everything, feeling extremely satisfied… she passed away.

And only one’s left are an absentminded me… and Sirius-sama, who was just born.

Aria-sama merely desired happiness for family and surrounding people, only that… so why…did this.

『Elena, you might not given birth to this child… but this baby is everyone’s child. Raise it… with great care』

At that time, hearing a baby’s cry and feeling it’s warmth, I regained my senses.

Get a grip… You don’t have time to be lamenting.

This personange left by Aria-sama….Sirius-sama, only you can protect him, you know?

“Aria-sama… I will make sure to raise Sirius-sama splendidly. Please watch over us” (Elena)

This was my encounter with Sirius-sama.

An encounter with one brought me happiness… a personage more important to me than anything else.

◆ ◆ ◆

A month since then.

By the time everyone in the mansion got over Aria-sama's death, I was engrossed in Sirius-sama's cuteness.

Cute and round eyes, inherited from his mother, very tiny hands, that grab onto my finger when I hold it out…. every little thing is adorable.

But he's also a little strange personage.

I have taken care of babies several times in the past, but Sirius-sama does not grumble at all, and does not spill a drop when I feed him.

It is almost as if he understands my words, and it feels like he would eat by himself if I handed him a spoon.

"Even so, Sirius-sama does eat cleanly, doesn't he?" (Noel)

"Sirius-sama is special" (Elena)

It seems Sirius-sama's developement is fast when compared with other babies. As expected of Aria-sama's child.

Noel was tilting her head in wonder, but gave up thinking about it because of Sirius-sama's cuteness.

After that Noel calls out to Sirius-sama several times wanting to be called onee-chan but…. why does it feel like it is just not me, but also Sirius sama is fed up with it?

I am happy he is developing fast but…. I end up thinking of wanting to raise him a bit more slowly.

However, that those are my feelings as a mother, feelings that I can in no way embrace.

I am Aria-sama's servant, so watching over Sirius-sama's growth is plenty.

◆ ◆ ◆

I collapsed due to water disease.

I had no sensation of my body due to fever and my conciousness was getting vague, but I did understand that my death is approaching.

"Aria…..sa….ma…." (Elena)

Even though I still….have things left do… will I end… in a place like this?

Aria-sama….I am sorry.

Even though I swore to protect your child….I…..

I am sorry… I am so—….

"Just drink it! I won't forgive you if you don't!" (Sirius)

That black hair…Aria-sama?

Understood. If it is… your order….

And as I desperately drank the thing brought up to my mouth….I realized something is not right.

This voice and these hands belong not to Aria-sama… but Sirius…sama?

“Sleep” (Sirius)

Aa….Sirius-sama.

You have grown to the point….you can order me around.

Please… grow further as you are—….

“Where…am I?” (Elena)

I was alive.

Fatigue is still there, but fever that was tormenting my body so much was gone, and I could understand that I completely recovered from water disease.

And when I realized that Sirius-sama was sleeping in an unstable position while leaning on my bed….I remembered.

I had my life saved by this personage.

That serious expression while trying to save me was just like a splitting image of Aria-sama.

“How did the medicine…” …a question comes to mind, but looking at this innocent sleeping face, I feel like it is not important.

Unable to endure that much adorableness I ended up reaching out to Sirius-sama with my hand, and ended up patting his head.

“Elena!?” (Sirius)

“Yes, at your side” (Elena)

After that I told him the truth, and after Sirius-sama’s confession, got to know the reason behind his abnormal growth.

A really unbelievable thing, but if this personage says so, then that must be the truth.

No, for the current me, something like the truth is not important.

This personage has already grown to the point I can respect him as my master.

From now on, not as Aria-sama’s servant, but as a servant of Sirius-sama, I shall serve him for all of my life.

◆ ◆ ◆

Sirius-sama is growing absurdly fast.

Just a few days ago, he had a fight Dee, who is an ex-adventurer and is bigger, and it ended in Sirius-sama’s victory.

Now he plays a central role for us, having grown into a splendid master who gives dreams and hopes not only for me, but also for Noel and Dee.

However…. this growth that can be said to be obviously extraordinary.

And this power that can easily take a person’s life.

From a stranger’s perspective he can also be described as a frightening existence.

But Sirius-sama understands how to use use this power, calls us a family, and is a personage who is kind enough to always worry about us.

I do not think of him as frightening, not even a tiny bit.

This personage is our beloved chi—… no, beloved goshujin-sama.

That sort of Sirius-sama one day came back to the mansion with silver-wolf clan children, that he found, in tow.

Siblings had nowhere to go, having lost not just their parents, but also their home village.

Frankly, we do not have enough leeway to also provide for the pair, but if that is Sirius-sama's desire, the only thing for us to do is responding to it.

Also… since it is Sirius-sama's first time saying something selfish, I definitely want to fulfill it.

"Pat me more…" (Reus)

"Yes, yes, Reus is good child, isn't he" (Elena)

"Un…." (Reus)

While Sirius-sama was treating Emilia's scars, I was putting Reus to bed.

Reus, sleeping with an innocent expresion is cute, but even so, Sirius-sama's sleeping face is the best.

Speaking of which, when was the last time I saw Sirius-sama's sleeping face?

He does get up earlier than us, so I do not have a memory of seeing it for these last few years.

Sirius-sama's growth is a joyous thing, but I find myself wishing he would be a bit more selfish, like appropriate for his age, and fawn on me like Reus.

That night, it was decided that Sirius-sama would be finally sleeping in my bed.

Sirius-sama seems to be thinking about something, but that serious face is also lovely.

Even though it used to be so small just a while back…. he has grown splendidly.

“Say… I’ll get anxious if I’m watched that much so…” (Sirius)

“I’m very sorry. However, I can’t sleep if I’m not facing this side” (Elena)

“Don’t lie.” (Sirius)

“No, only for today, I can’t sleep if I’m not facing this side” (Elena)

This kind of happy time, I how can I waste it by sleeping.

A few days after that, Emilia and Reus realized Sirius-sama’s magnificence, and oathed loyalty to him.

Especially Emilia, she will likely become a servant that will never betray him.

That is, it is likely this child will succeed me.

I… do not have long left.

Lately my body does not move like I want it to, and the days I cannot handle work, if I do not rest a few times, are increasing.

And above all, the problem is my age, so I cannot support Sirius-sama forever.

Making a succesor… in other words, it means entrusting my feelings, but this is nothing but my own selfishness.

It is an act that does not only make Emilia carry an invisible weight, but also one that decides her future.

If I tell her my one-sided feelings in spite of that….

“I decided to live for Sirius-sama’s sake. So please teach me all the skills of a servant, Elena-san!” (Emilia)

Emilia accepted with gusto.

Sirius-sama, you found a truly good child.

I will make sure to raise this child into a fine servant, suitable for Sirius-sama.

Most likely, this will be my last task.

So please.

Hold out…just a little longer.

◆ ◆ ◆

It seems I am at my limit.

However, I have entrusted all of my feelings to Emilia.

The only thing left was saying my last words to everyone, but I ended up getting scolded by Sirius-sama.

“I will. But I want you to say what you really think… kaa-san” (Sirius)

And… got called kaa-san.

Even though I did not give birth to you, even though I am not your true mother…is it alright?

Is it alright to be your mother?

Feelings, that I was never supposed to have, flooded over and I could not hold back my tears.

“….am I allowed to do that?” (Elena)

“Since I won’t be seeing you as anything but my mother anymore. So please, otherwise I might end up hating you” (Sirius)

“I don’t want to be hated by Sirius-sama…no by Sirius. So I shall do as you say” (Elena)

I shall convey my thoughts to everyone one last time.

To Reus, to be more elegant.

To Dee, to have more courage.

To Noel, to keep smiling brightly.

To Emilia, to take care of herself as well.

And for Sirius, just like Aria-sama’s last will… to live…freely.

“Could you… hold my hand?” (Elena)

“Sure” (Sirius)

“Would you call me kaa-san one more time?” (Elena)

“Any number of times, kaa-san” (Sirius)

“Once more” (Elena)

“Kaa-san” (Sirius)

“A bit louder” (Elena)

“Kaa-san!” (Sirius)

“I would like to be called mama” (Elena)

“Yes yes, mama” (Sirius)

“As I thought, I like kaa-san better”

“Understood, Kaa-san” (Sirius)

“Fufu, this is the first time I see your tearful face. You would cry for me, huh?” (Elena)

“Isn’t…that obvious” (Sirius)

Because of the drug, I cannot feel you holding my hand, but I can feel your kindness.

And so, Sirius, who never cried even once since his birth, is letting his tears flow.

This child, that did not cry even after knowing that Aria-sama is already gone…is crying for me.

“Me too…. I was happy…. to be with you, mom” (Sirius)

I… was able to be your mother, huh?

“I love you… my Sirius” (Elena)

“I love you too, kaa-san” (Sirius)

“Aa….those words are enough. Sirius…..” (Elena)

Abruptly… my memories of the past overflow.

Ever since I received my life in this world, I was met with painful, horrible experiences many times.

Losing my parents, becoming a noble’s servant with conditions almost akin to selling myself, spending those grueling days.

And contracting a serious disease, my body becoming unable to give birth, I despaired.

However…I, who lost my reasons to live, got saved by Aria-sama.

After also losing Aria-sama, who saved me, that time when I was about fall to despair once again…I met you.

The time I lifted you, a child left behind by Aria-sama, in my arms….everything was decided for me.

“I shall…live to protect this child.”

I found a cute…lovely…existence I wanted to protect, even if had to sacrifice everything else. It was troubling and difficult at times, but thinking of you, nothing scared me.

For you were the reason I live.

Being called kaa-san by you, I got repaid for everything.

Giving dreams to Noel and Dee who are my family, becoming an aim for Emilia and Reus… you are my pride.

I was able to come this far, because you were here.

Because you were here, my world was filled with radiance.

Therefore…I want tell you at the end.

My lovely Sirius…

…for being born, I….

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